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E M I L I U S

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VOL. II.

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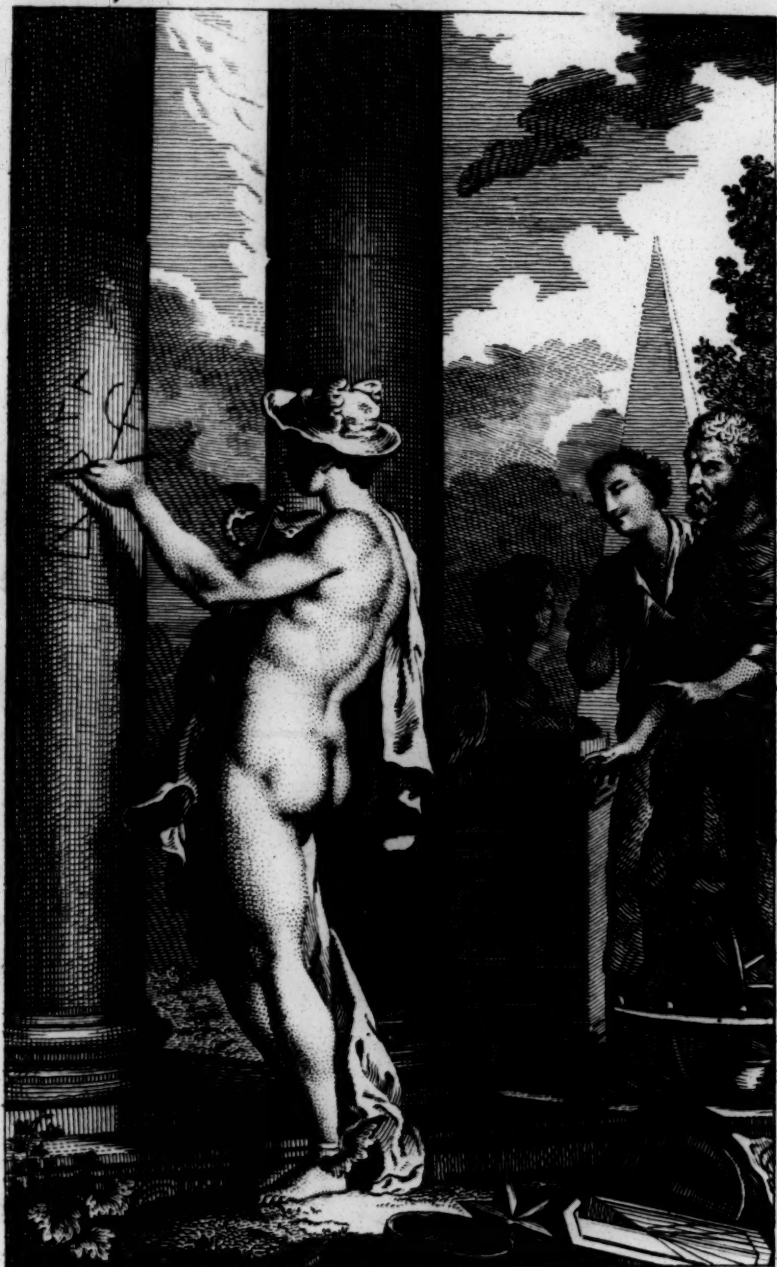
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E M I L I U S

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E D U C A T I O N.

Translated from the FRENCH of

Mr. J. J. R O U S S E A U.

By the TRANSLATOR of ELOISA.

V O L. II.

A N E W E D I T I O N.

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EMILIUS;

O R,

A NEW SYSTEM

OF

EDUCATION.

BOOK III.

 **A**LTHOUGH a child, till he arrive at the age of puberty, be in a constant state of imbecility and weakness, there is a certain period in this stage of his life, at which, the progress of his passions being greater than that of his necessities, the growing animal, though absolutely weak, becomes relatively strong. His wants not having all displayed themselves, his actual powers are more than capable to provide for those of which he is sensible. Considered as a man, he is undoubtedly weak; but as a child he is more than sufficiently strong.

VOL. II.

B

Hence

Hence we see proceeds the weakness of man, that is from the disproportion arising between his faculties and his desires. It is our passions that render us feeble; because to gratify them, requires greater powers than nature has furnished us with. Diminish, then, the number, check the extravagance, of your desires, and you increase your powers of gratification. He who can compass more than he requires, hath ability to spare; and is certainly a powerful being.

At this period commences the third stage of infancy, of which I am now about to treat; it being that state of childhood which approaches nearly to puberty without being quite arrived at that term.

At the age of twelve or thirteen, the powers and faculties of a child make a speedier progress than his desires, and display themselves in greater proportion than his wants. The most impetuous, the most coercive of all physical necessities, he hath not yet experienced. The very organs that provide for its gratification are as yet imperfect, and seem to wait the exertion of the will to capacitate them for action. Unaffected by the inclemency of the weather or the change of seasons, his natural
heat

heat supplies the artificial warmth of apparel, and his keenness of appetite the provocatives of sauce. At his age, whatever is but nourishing is good ; if he be drowsy, he stretches himself on the ground and falls asleep. Whatever he hath occasion for, is within his reach ; he craves not after imaginary dainties ; he feels no disgust from prepossession. His desires confined within the sphere of his abilities, he is not only capable of providing for himself, but possesses superfluous faculties for which he has no use. This, however, is the only time, during life, in which he will be in such a situation.

It will possibly be objected that, though I have not supposed the wants of my child fewer than they really are, yet that I attribute to him too great a power of satisfying them. It should always be remembered, however, that I am speaking particularly of my own pupil, and not of those enervated puppets, who make it a journey to waddle out of one room into another ; who gasp for breath in strait-laced stays, or labour under a load of whalebone or buckram. It may be said that manly abilities are displayed only in a state of manhood ; that the animal spirits duly prepared and distributed in their proper channels through the whole body, are only capable to give that consistence,

activity, tone, and elasticity to the muscles which constitute real strength. Such, indeed, is the philosophy of the closet; but I appeal to experience. I see sturdy boys daily employed in the fields about the most laborious parts of husbandry; so that they might be taken for grown men, if their voices did not betray them. Even in our cities we see the young artisans frequently as robust as their masters, and equally expert for the time they have served. If there be any difference in their capacity and abilities, and I confess there is some, it is much less, I say again, than that between the impetuous desires of a man and the confined inclinations of a child. For, it is to be observed, we are not here speaking of mere corporeal abilities: but more particularly of those mental faculties and talents, by which the former are directed and supplied. This interval, in which the individual is able to effect more than he requires, though it be not the period of his greatest absolute strength, is, as I before observed, that of his greatest relative ability. This interval contains the most precious moments of his life; moments never to return, few, and transitory; hence the more precious, as to employ them well becomes of the greater importance.

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To what use, then, is it proper a child should put that redundancy of abilities, of which he is at present possessed and hereafter will stand in need of? He should employ it on those things which may be of utility in time to come. He should throw, if I may so express myself, the superfluity of his present being into his future existence. The robust child should provide for the subsistence of the feeble man; not in laying up his treasure in coffers whence thieves may steal, nor by intrusting it in the hands of others; but by keeping it in his own. To appropriate his acquisitions to himself, he will secure them in the strength and dexterity of his own arms, and in the capacity of his own head. This, therefore, is the time for employment, for instruction, for study. Observe also, that I have not arbitrarily fixed on this period for that purpose: nature itself plainly points it out to us.

So circumscribed is human intelligence, that we are not only denied the power of attaining universal knowledge, but it is impossible even to know perfectly the little that is attained by others. As the reverse of every false proposition is true, the source of truth must be as inexhaustible as that of error. A proper choice therefore should be made of the subjects, as

well as of the time for instruction. Of the arts and sciences within our acquisition, some are fallacious, others useless, and others again serve only to flatter the vanity of their respective professors. The small number of such as really contribute to our well-being, are those only that merit the attention of a wise man, and of course of the child that we are solicitous to make so. The point in view, therefore, is not what may be true, but what is useful.

From this scanty proportion of useful knowledge, we must yet farther subtract those truths which require an understanding already formed; such as presuppose the knowledge of those different relations and circumstances, with which a child cannot be acquainted, and which, though true in themselves, dispose an unexperienced mind to form a wrong judgment on other occasions.

Thus are we reduced, in our system of education, to a very small circle, compared with the system of things. This, however, appears an immense sphere to the contracted faculties of a child: so dark are the clouds that obscure the dawn of the human understanding! Where is the man who hath temerity enough to attempt their dissipation? What an abyss hath
fruitless

fruitless knowledge dug round the hapless youth ! Tremble, presumptuous man ! thou who art about to conduct him through its dangerous paths, and to draw from before his eyes the sacred curtain of nature. Be first well assured of his capacity and your own, lest the intellects of one or the other, and perhaps both, be perverted in the attempt. Beware of the specious allurements of falshood, and the intoxicating fumes of pride. Remember, constantly remember, that mere ignorance hath never been hurtful ; that error alone is destructive ; and that we do not err in things we are professedly ignorant of, but in those which we conceive we know.

The progress which your pupil makes in geometry, will serve, both as a proof and a guide, in the display of his capacity. As soon, however, as he is capable of distinguishing what is useful, it requires great address and circumspection to introduce speculative subjects. Are you desirous, for instance, that he should know how to find a mean proportional between two given lines ? begin by inducing him practically to find a square, equal to a given rectangle. If the question be, to find two mean proportionals, it will be requisite to make the problem of doubling the cube peculiarly interesting.

Hence you see, in what manner we might approach by degrees those truths, on which are founded the moral distinctions of good and evil. Hitherto we have been governed by no law but that of necessity ; at present we begin to consider what is useful, and shall not be long before we come to the consideration of what is good and proper.

The various faculties of men are excited by the same instinct. To the activity of the body, making constant efforts to display its abilities, succeeds that of the mind, as constantly seeking after information. Children, when very young, seem endowed only with a capacity and inclination for motion ; they afterwards become inquisitive and curious, and this curiosity, well directed, becomes at the age they have now attained, their chief spring of action. Let us be always careful to distinguish those propensities which are implanted by nature, from those which are ingrafted by the dictates of prejudice and opinion. A thirst after knowledge may proceed merely from the vanity of desiring to be thought learned ; it may also arise from that curiosity which naturally excites us to enquire after every thing in which we may be either directly or indirectly interested. Our innate desire of happiness, and the impossibility of our
fully

fully gratifying that desire, are the cause of our constant researches after new expedients to contribute to that end.

This is the first principle or motive of curiosity; a principle which is natural to the heart of man, but which displays itself only in obedience to our passions, and in proportion to our acquirements of knowledge. Let us suppose a philosopher cast ashore on a desert island, together with his books and instruments, and that he was under an absolute certainty of spending in that solitude the remainder of his days. He would never trouble himself further about the system of the universe, the laws of attraction, or the fluxionary calculus. It is probable he would never after look in a book, during his whole life: but he certainly would not fail to explore the island, however extensive, even to its remotest corners. Let us, therefore, in our early studies, reject those sciences for which man has not a natural turn, and confine ourselves to those which instinct directs us to pursue.

This earth is the island on which mankind are cast, and the most striking object of their observation is the sun. As soon as our ideas begin to extend beyond ourselves, our attention

will therefore naturally be engrossed between two such interesting subjects. Hence the philosophy of almost every savage nation is confined solely to the imaginary divisions of the earth, and the divinity of the sun. "What an excursion ! cries the reader. We were but just now employed about objects that immediately surround us, and we are now traversing the globe, and soaring to the distant extremities of the universe." This excursion, however, is the simple effect of the progress of our faculties and the bent of our understanding. During our infant state of weakness and incapacity, all our thoughts, influenced by self-preservation, are confined within ourselves. On the contrary, in a more advanced age, as our abilities increase, the desire of improving our existence carries us out of ourselves, and our ideas extend to their utmost limits. As the intellectual world, however, is as yet unknown to us, our thoughts cannot extend farther than we can see ; but our comprehension dilates itself with the bounds of space.

Let us convert our sensations into ideas ; but let us not fly at once from sensible to intellectual objects. It is by a due and rational attention to the former we can only attain the latter. In the first operations of the understanding, let
our

our senses then always be our guide, the world our only book, and facts our sole precepts. Children, when taught to read, learn that only ; they never think ; they gain no information ; all their learning consists in words.

Direct the attention of your pupil to the phenomena of nature, and you will soon awaken his curiosity ; but to keep that curiosity alive, you must be in no haste to satisfy it. Put questions to him adapted to his capacity, and leave him to resolve them. Let him take nothing on trust from his preceptor, but on his own comprehension and conviction : he should not learn, but invent, the sciences. If ever you substitute authority in the place of argument, he will reason no longer ; he will be ever afterwards bandied like a shuttlecock between the opinions of others.

You intend, we'll suppose, to teach your child geography, and for that purpose provide for him maps, spheres, and globes. What an apparatus ! wherefore all these mere representations of things ? why do you not rather begin by shewing him the object itself, that he may, at least, know what it is you are talking about ?

Walk out with him some fine evening, to a convenient spot, from whence an extensive horizon may give you a full view of the setting sun; and then take particular notice of such objects as mark the place of its going down. Return the next morning, with a professed design only of taking the fresh air, to the same place, before the sun rises. There you will see the fiery rays it scatters among the clouds, as harbingers of its approach. The illumination increases, the east seems all in flames, and you expect the glorious orb long before it discovers itself above the horizon; you think you see it every moment; it at length appears. Its rays dart like lightning o'er the face of nature, and darkness vanishes at the sight. Man glories in his habitation, and sees it embellished with new beauty. The lawn is refreshed by the coolness of the night, and the light of the morn displays its increasing verdure: the dew-bespangled flowers that enamel its surface glitter in the sun beams, and, like rubies and emeralds, dart their colours on the eye. The chearful birds unite in choirs, and hail in concert the parent of life: not one is silent, at this inchanting moment none are mute, though in feeble notes, more slow and soft than those they chaunt all day, as if from peaceful slumbers scarce awoke, they join in

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languid

languid harmony. The assemblage of so many pleasing objects imprints a glowing sensation that seems to penetrate the soul. Who can withstand the rapture of this short interval of enchantment? it is impossible so grand, so beautiful, so delightful a scene can be ever beheld with indifference. Full of that enthusiastic rapture, with which a preceptor is inspired on such an occasion, he endeavours perhaps to communicate it to his pupil; he expects to excite the same emotions in the child, by attracting its attention to those sensations which he experiences within himself. Ridiculous expectation! it is the heart only that contemplates the beauties of nature: to be seen they should be always felt: a child indeed may perceive the several objects, but their connection is to him invisible; he is insensible to the harmony of the spheres. He requires an experience, he hath not yet attained, and sentiments to which he is as yet a stranger, to be susceptible of that complex impression which is the general result of all these sensations. If he has not travelled over deserts; if his feet have never been parched by burning sands; if he never hath felt the scorching sun-beams reflected from the surrounding rocks, how can he taste the fresh air of a fine morning? How should he be enraptured with the fragrance of the flowers, the refreshing

freshing verdure of the grass, the dew drops sparkling in the sun, or the soft carpet of the downy moss? How should the warbling of birds inspire him with glowing raptures, who is a stranger to the soft accents of love and delight? How can he behold with transport the dawn of so lovely a day, whose imagination cannot paint to itself the joys it is capable of bestowing? In a word, what tender sensations can be excited by the charms of nature, in him, who is ignorant by whose hand she is so beautifully adorned? Talk not to children in a language they do not comprehend; make use of no pompous descriptions, no flowers of speech, no tropes and figures, no poetry; taste and sentiment are at present quite out of the question: simplicity, gravity and precision are all that are yet required: the time will come, but too soon, when we must assume a different style,

A pupil educated agreeable to these maxims, and accustomed to receive no assistance till he has discovered his own inabilities, will examine every new object with a long and silent attention. He will be thoughtful without asking questions. Content yourself, therefore, with presenting proper objects opportunely to his notice, and when you see they have sufficiently excited his curiosity, drop some leading laconic questions,

questions, which may put him in the way of discovering the truth.

On the present occasion ; having for some time contemplated the rising sun, and made your pupil observe the hills and other neighbouring objects on that side, permitting him the while to talk about them without interruption, stand silent a few moments and affect a profound meditation. You may then address him thus : “ I am thinking that, when the sun
“ set last night, it went down yonder behind
“ us ; whereas, this morning, you see, he is
“ risen on the opposite side of the plain, here,
“ before us. What can be the meaning of
“ this ? ” Say nothing more ; and, if he asks you any thing about it, divert his attention, for the present, by talking of something else. Leave him to reflect on it himself, and be assured he will think of your observation.

To accustom a child to give attention to objects, and to make sensible truths appear striking to his imagination, it is necessary to keep him some time in suspense before they are explained or discovered to him. If he should not sufficiently comprehend the nature of the present question by the means proposed, it may be rendered still more obvious, by diversifying
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the terms of it. If he cannot comprehend in what manner the sun proceeds from its setting to its rising, he knows at least how it proceeds from its rising to its setting; he hath ocular information of this. Explain the first question, then, by the second, and if your pupil be not extremely dull indeed, the analogy is too obvious to escape him.

Such is our first lecture in cosmography.

As we proceed slowly from one sensible idea to another, making ourselves familiarly acquainted with each as we go on, and as our pupil's attention is never required upon compulsion, the distance will be very considerable, from the object of this first lesson to the knowledge of the sun's course and the figure of the earth: but as the apparent motion of all the heavenly bodies depends on the same principle, and as the first observation naturally leads to all the rest, it requires less capacity, though more time, to proceed from the diurnal rotation of the earth to the calculation of an eclipse, than to acquire clear ideas of the phenomenon of day and night.

As the sun turns round the earth he describes a circle, and every circle hath a center; this

we already know. This center, also, must needs be invisible, because it is in the middle of our globe; but we can suppose two points on the surface so corresponding with it, that a rod passing through all three and extended both ways to the heavens, would be at once the axis of the earth and of the sun's apparent diurnal motion. A whirl bone or globular totum, turning upon one of its points, may serve to represent the heavens turning upon their axis, the two points of this play-thing being the two poles; one of which may be pointed out to our pupil, near the tail of the little bear. This would furnish us with an amusement for the night; by which means we should become gradually acquainted with the stars, and thence in time grow anxious to distinguish the planets and constellations.

Emilius and I have seen the sun rise at midsummer: we shall next take a view of his rising, some fine morning, in the depth of winter. We are neither of us idle, you know, and both despise the cold. I have taken care to make the second observation on the very same spot, where we made the former; so that, in consequence of a little preparatory discourse to introduce the remark, one or other of us will infallibly cry out, when the sun first appears

pears above the horizon, “ Ha! this is pleasant enough! the sun does not rise in the place it used to do. Here, you see, are our old marks to the left, and now he rises yonder, to the right. So it seems there is one east for the summer, and another for the winter.” These examples will be sufficient to shew the unexperienced preceptor the way to bring his pupil acquainted with the sphere, by making use of the earth itself instead of a globe, and the apparent revolution of the sun instead of any imperfect representation of it. It ought, indeed, to be laid down as a general rule, never to substitute the shadow unless where it is impossible to exhibit the substance; for the representation engrossing the attention of the child, generally makes him forget the object represented.

The armillary sphere appears to me a very ill contrived and disproportioned machine. Its confused circles, and the strange figures delineated thereon, give it an air of necromancy, which is enough to frighten children. The earth is, besides, too small; the circles too wide and numerous; while some, particularly the two colures, are entirely useless. Each circle exceeds in breadth the diameter of the earth, and their thickness gives them such an air of substance

substance and reality, that when you tell your pupil they represent only imaginary circles, you confound him; he neither knows what he sees, nor comprehends what you say to him.

We never know how to suppose ourselves in the place of children; we never enter into their manner of thinking. On the contrary, we attribute to them our ideas; and, pursuing our own method of argumentation, fill their heads, even while we are discussing incontestible truths, with extravagance and error. It is disputed, whether the sciences are best taught by the synthetic or analytic method. It is not always necessary to abide by either. We may sometimes compound and resolve in the same disquisition, and instruct a child by the former mode of argument, while he thinks himself employing the latter. Add to this, that, by making use of both methods indifferently, they serve reciprocally to confirm each other. Setting out at the same time from two different points, without seeming to take the same route, he will be surprized to find himself directed two ways to one and the same object; and that surprize cannot fail of giving him great satisfaction. In teaching him geography, for example, I would begin at its two extremes; and, with the study of the apparent astronomical revolutions, unite
that

that of the divisions and measurement of the earth. While he is studying the sphere, and thus transporting himself in imagination to the heavens, I would call back his attention to the divisions of the earth, and point out to him their relation to his own place of abode.

The two first objects of his geographical studies, should be the town where he resides, and his father's seat in the country. After having well observed the situation of these, he should take the like notice of the neighbouring villages and country seats on the road, together with the adjacent rivers; observing the situation and aspect of each object, in regard to the rising and setting of the sun. This is the point of re-union. He should make a map from this survey; beginning simply with the two first objects before mentioned, and inserting the others by degrees, as he comes to know, or estimates, their position and distance. You see, already, the advantages he will have in this respect, by having accustomed him to measure objects and distances by his eye.

Notwithstanding this advantage, however, it will be necessary to direct a child in these operations a little; but this should be very little and imperceptibly. If he falls into a mistake,

let

let him. Be in no haste to set him right ; but wait with patience till he be himself in a state to discover and correct his error ; or at most take occasion only, at a favourable opportunity, by some distant hint, to make him sensible of it. If he should never mistake, he would make but little improvement. It is not necessary that he should know at present the topography of the country, but the means whereby such knowledge is obtained ; it is of no importance to him to have a number of maps in his head, provided he knows what they serve to represent, and has clear ideas of the art, by which they are constructed. Here you see the difference between Emilius and the pupils of others. Their knowledge lies in maps and charts, that of my pupil in the science of geography. His progress in the art of map-making will hence furnish new ornaments for his apartment. You will remember it is my constant maxim, not to teach a child a multiplicity of things, but to prevent his acquiring any but clear and precise ideas. His knowing but little is of no consequence, provided he imbibes no false principles. I store his head with truth, only to prevent the entrance of error. Reason and judgment advance but slowly, while prejudice attacks with early impetuosity ; we must carefully guard therefore against the latter. If you regard science indeed

deed for its own sake, and aim at knowledge in general, you enter upon an unfathomable ocean, without a shore, to founder among the rocks. When I see a man, enamoured by the charms of universal knowledge, and flying from the pursuit of one science to another, I think I see a child gathering shells on the sea-shore. He first loads himself indiscriminately with as many as he can carry ; when, tempted by others of a gayer appearance, he throws the former away, taking and rejecting, till fatigued and bewildered in his choice, he hath thrown all away, and returns home without a single shell.

During the first term of childhood, we endeavoured only to lose time, to avoid the ill employment of it. The case is now altered ; and we have not time sufficient for every thing that might be useful. The passions advance upon us apace, and the moment they give notice of their arrival, your pupil will give no ear to any other monitor. The term of dispassionate intelligence is short and transitory ; and is, besides, employed on so many subjects of present utility, that it is a folly to think it sufficiently long for a child to acquire much learning or wisdom. It is not our business at present to make him an adept in the sciences, but

to give him a taste for them, and point out the method of improving it. This is most certainly the fundamental principle of a rational education.

The present is also the proper time, to accustom your pupil by degrees to fix his attention, for some time, on one and the same object. This attention, however, must always be accompanied by pleasure or inclination, and never be the effect of compulsion. We must be careful, also, not to keep it too long upon the stretch, lest weariness and disgust should ensue. Keep, therefore, a watchful eye over your pupil, and by no means permit him to fatigue himself by too intense application. He had better learn nothing, than learn upon compulsion.

When he asks a question, be your answer always calculated rather to keep alive than satisfy his curiosity; especially when you observe he has a mind to trifle rather than be instructed. You ought to pay less regard to the terms of interrogation, than to his motives for enquiry. This conduct becomes of the greatest importance when a child begins to reason.

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The sciences are connected together by a series of propositions, all dependent on some general and common principles, which are gradually displayed. The philosophers make use of these; with us they are as yet out of the question. There is another chain of reasoning, of a different construction, by which every particular object is connected to some other, and points out that which succeeds it. This order of succession, which, from our natural curiosity, keeps alive our attention, is generally made use of by grown persons, and is peculiarly adapted to children.

Before we begin to delineate our map, we must trace a meridian. The two points of intersection found by shadows of equal length in the morning and evening, will give an excellent meridian for an astronomer of thirteen. To find these, however, will require time, and oblige us to work constantly on the same spot. This method might be too troublesome and disgusting; having foreseen this inconvenience, therefore, we have provided against it.

But I am now fallen again into my usual custom of being tediously circumstantial. I hear your murmurs, grumbling reader, and disregard them.

them. I am determined I will not sacrifice the most useful part of my book to your impatience. Act as you please with regard to my prolixity, I am, for my part, perfectly easy about your complaints.

My pupil has long since observed that amber, glass, wax, and several other bodies, on being rubbed, attract bits of straw, feathers and the like; and that other bodies in general have not that quality. Among them, however, we have accidentally discovered one, which is possessed of a yet more singular property: it attracts steel-filings and bits of iron, not only at a distance, but without friction. This discovery engages our attention for some time, without answering any other purpose than amusement. At length, we perceive it communicates its attractive property to iron and steel. About this time, I take my pupil to see the diversions of a neighbouring fair; where, among other wonderful performances, a juggler produces a duck, of wax, swimming about in a basin, after a piece of bread, which he holds in his hand. We are greatly surprized at this strange phenomenon, but as we are unacquainted with the fables of witchcraft, we charge not the artist with being either a wizard or conjurer. As we are daily accustomed to various striking effects,

of whose causes we are confessedly ignorant, we are not very anxious to account for every thing we see ; but rest contented till some fortunate event affords us information.

At our return home, however, our conversation very naturally turns on this extraordinary duck, and accordingly a thought suggests itself of imitating it. We take a large needle, and touching it on the load-stone, cover it with wax, which we mould as well as we can into the shape of a duck, the needle passing through its body from the beak to the tail. We then set it afloat in a basin of water, and presenting a key to its beak, we find, to our great joy, the duck follows it, in the same manner as that of the juggler followed the bread. As to the line of direction in which the body of the duck remains when at rest, we may observe that some other time : at present, we are too much taken up with the first object of attention to think of any thing else. In the evening we repair to the juggler's booth, with a piece of bread, properly prepared, in our pocket ; when the boasting artist having performed his trick, my young philosopher, who had with difficulty so long contained himself, tells him, there is nothing in it, and that he himself can do as much. He is taken

at his word ; and instantly pulls the bread with the concealed iron out of his pocket. His heart flutters as he approaches the table, and his hand trembles as he presents the bread. The duck, however, follows it, on which he leaps for joy, and triumphs in the applause of the spectators. The juggler, though a little confounded, embraces him, felicitates him on his success, and begs he will honour him with his presence the next day, when he promises to collect a more numerous assembly to witness and applaud his abilities. Our young naturalist, in the mean while, so proud of his science, is just on the point of discovering the secret ; when I hurry him away from the scene.

Full of the applause he is to receive to-morrow, he counts the moments, in the mean time, with ridiculous impatience. He invites every one he knows, and would be glad the whole world should be witnesses of his triumph. At length the appointed hour is come ; we hasten to the place of rendezvous, and find the room already crowded with spectators. His young heart is elated with joy at the sight. Other tricks in their course preceding ours, the juggler surpasses his usual dexterity, and performs wonders. My pupil, however, pays no attention to what is doing ; but keeps fumbling all the while in

his pocket ; with his piece of bread in his hand, fetching his breath short, and sweating with impatience and anxiety. At length it is his turn to exhibit : the artist pompously introduces the apparatus and prepares the spectators for the trick. Emilius, though somewhat abashed, approaches the table, and offering his bread to the duck—what a new turn in human affairs ! tame as it was yesterday, it is become a mere wild-duck to day : instead of presenting its beak, it turns tail and swims away, flying from the bread, and the hand presenting it, as fast as it before had followed them. After many fruitless trials, for which he is constantly hissed by the company, my pupil complains that he is imposed on, and that this is not the duck he practised on yesterday : defying the juggler himself to draw this about in the same manner.

The artist, without making a reply, takes up a piece of bread, and presenting it to the duck draws it immediately after his hand. Emilius takes up the same piece of bread ; but, instead of succeeding better than with the former, has the mortification to see the duck turn regardless from him and make circles round the basin : On this he retires in confusion, unable to stand the hisses of the company any longer.

The

The juggler now takes the piece of bread my pupil had brought, and makes use of it with as much success as he did his own: He takes the iron from within it; and exposing it to the company, raises another laugh at our expence: He even draws the duck about, as before, with the bread thus separated from the iron. He performs the same trick, also, with another piece, cut from the loaf by a third person; he does the same thing with his glove, and with the bare end of his finger. He next advances into the middle of the room, and declaring aloud, with that emphatic tone so peculiar to these gentry, that his duck would obey his call as well as his motions; he speaks to it, and it immediately obeys the word of command. If he bids it move to the right, to the right it goes; if to return, it returns; if to turn about, about it turns; its motion constantly obedient to his order. The repeated shouts of applause, that follow these specimens of his art, are so many insults upon us; we therefore privately slip out, and making the best of our way home, shut ourselves up in our apartment, instead of going about, as we had projected, to tell every body our success.

The next morning somebody knocks at the door; who should this be but our friend the
C 3 juggler?

juggler? He enters, and modestly complains of our conduct; he cannot think what he has done to us, that we should endeavour to discredit his tricks, and deprive him of his bread; or that there is any thing so very wonderful in the art of drawing about a duck of wax, that we should be ambitious of that honour, at the expence of a poor man's subsistence. Faith, gentlemen, continues he, if I could get a living by any other talent, I should never be proud of this. You should reflect that a man, who has spent great part of his life in the exercise of this pitiful industry, must of course know more of the matter than you, who only throw away a few minutes on it. If I did not exhibit the master-pieces of my dexterity at first, it was because one should not be in haste to make an unnecessary display of one's knowledge: I have always taken care to preserve my best tricks for particular occasions; and have, besides what you have seen, many others to check young and indiscreet observers. I am come, nevertheless, gentlemen, very readily to acquaint you of the secret that so much embarrassed you; at the same time hoping you will make no ill use of it, to my prejudice; and that you will another time be more reserved.

He

He produces his machine ; when, to our very great surprize, we see it consists only of a powerful loadstone, which a child, hid under the table for that purpose, moved about without being perceived.

As he is putting his loadstone up again, we thank him, and, excusing ourselves for what is passed, offer to make him a present, which he refuses. No, gentlemen, says he, you don't deserve so well of me, that I should accept your favours ; you shall be obliged to me against your will ; this is all the revenge I shall take. You may hence learn that there are men of spirit in all conditions of life : I am paid for the exercise of my hands, and not of my tongue. In going out he addresses to me, particularly, the following reprimand. I can easily excuse the child, says he aloud, as he offended only through ignorance : But you, sir, who ought to have known his error, why did you permit him ? As you both live together, you, as the elder, owe him your advice and direction : Your experience should be the authority for his conduct. In reproaching himself, as he grows up, for the faults of his youth, he will doubtless reproach you for those of which you did not advise him.

Having said this, he departs, leaving us both in a good deal of confusion. I blame myself for my own easy and pliant temper ; promising my pupil to sacrifice it another time to his interest, and to warn him of his faults before he commits them. For the time is now approaching when our relation to each other must change, and the severity of the master give place to the complacency of the companion. This change ought to be effected by degrees ; and, like every other, be timely and early provided for.

We return the next day to the fair, to see the trick repeated, of which we are let into the secret. We accost our Socratic juggler, with a profound respect ; hardly daring to look him in the face. He, on the other hand, loads us with civilities, and in seating mortifies us with the most humiliating marks of distinction. He performs his usual flights, and amuses himself a long time with the trick of the duck, casting every now and then a severe and confident look at us. In the mean time, we, though privy to the whole, keep the most profound silence. Should my pupil dare but to open his mouth on such an occasion, I should have no hopes of him.

The circumstantial account of this example is of more consequence than it may at first appear.

pear. How many lessons are contained in this one! How many mortifying consequences are sure to follow the first emotion of vanity! Watch, with care, young preceptor, this first emotion in your pupil; and be assured that, if you can thus make it productive of humiliation and disgrace, you will be long before you see any appearance of a second. What preparations are here! you will say; I confess it; and all to make us a compass to serve us instead of a meridian.

Having learnt that a load stone acts through the substance of other bodies, we have nothing to do but to construct a machine like that we have seen. To this end we procure a large flat basin; placing it on a table and filling it with water; we make our duck also a little neater than the former; and thus our apparatus is ready. From our constant attention to what passes in the basin, we at length remark that the body of the duck, when at rest, preserves always nearly the same direction. We repeat the experiment, and on examination, find this direction to be from south to north. This is sufficient; our compass is now as good as made.

The earth hath various climates, and those climates different temperatures; the seasons varying more considerably in proportion as we

approach either pole. All bodies contract with cold, and dilate with heat; this effect is still more conspicuous in fluids than solids, and is commensurable by spirituous liquors; by means of which the Thermometer was constructed. The wind blows against our faces; hence we find air is a body, a palpable fluid, although we cannot by any means see it. Press a drinking-glass turned upside down, into water, the fluid will not occupy the whole space within it, unless by leaning it side-ways you let the air escape: Hence we find air is capable of resistance. Press the glass with a still greater force downwards, and the water will gain upon the air without ever being able entirely to fill the glass: Hence we find air is capable of a certain degree of compression. A ball filled with compressed air will rebound better than another filled with any other substance: air then is an elastic body. Lying down at one's full length in a bathing tub, if we endeavour to raise our arms in an horizontal position out of the water, we shall find them loaded with a prodigious weight; air, therefore, is evidently heavy, and may be weighed against other fluids; hence the contrivance of the barometer, the syphon, the wind-gun and the air-pump. All the laws of statics and hydrostatics discover themselves by experiments equally obvious and common. I would not, therefore, have him enter the cabinet

binet of an experimental philosopher to learn any of these. His apparatus and pomp of machinery disgust me; their scientific air is destructive to science itself; those various engines either frightening a child, or taking up that attention to their figure which he ought to bestow on their effects. I would have all our machines be of our own construction, and would not begin to construct the instrument before I had made the experiment; but, after having made this imperfectly, and as it were by chance, we would by degrees invent the instrument to confirm it. I had rather our machines should be less accurate and compleat, and that we should have more just ideas of what they ought to be, and of their operations. For my first lesson in statics, instead of providing myself with a balance and scales, I lay a stick across the back of a chair; I measure the length of both ends, when it hangs in equilibrio. I next hang different weights on each; placing them nearer or farther off the point of suspension, as occasion requires: by these means I find that the equilibrium depends on a reciprocal proportion between the weights and the length of the levers; and thus I instruct my young mechanic to rectify a balance before he has ever seen one.

We acquire, without doubt, notions more clear and certain, of things we thus learn of
 C 6 ourselves,

ourselves, than of those we are taught by others. Another advantage also resulting from this method is, that we do not accustom ourselves to a servile submission to the authority of others ; but, by exercising our reason, grow every day more ingenious in the discovery of the relations of things, in connecting our ideas and in the contrivance of machines ; whereas, by adopting those which are put into our hands, our invention grows dull and indifferent, as the man who never dresses himself, but is served in every thing by his servants, and drawn about every where by his horses, loses by degrees the activity and use of his limbs. Boileau boasted that he had taught Racine to rhyme with much difficulty : Among the many admirable methods taken to abridge the study of the sciences, we are in great want of one to make us learn them with difficulty.

The most obvious advantage of these slow and laborious researches, is to preserve, in the cultivation of speculative studies, the activity of the body ; to preserve the suppleness of the limbs, and to be always busied in some manual operation, or employment, of use to mankind. The diversity of instruments, invented to direct us in our experiments, and make up for the deficiency of our organs of sense, makes us neglect the exercise of the latter. A Theodolite dis-
penses

penses with our estimating the extent of angles ; the eye, which is capable of measuring distances with great exactness, gives up the task to the chain ; the steel-yard excuses me from judging of the weight of any thing by poising it in my hand. Thus the more ingenious and accurate our instruments, the more unsusceptible and inexpert become our organs : by assembling a heap of machinery about us, we find afterwards none in ourselves.

But when we set about the construction of these machines ourselves, and employ therein that sagacity and address which are required to do without them, we lose nothing : on the contrary we gain every thing ; and, by adding the knowledge of art to nature, become more ingenious without being less dextrous. If instead of keeping a boy poring over books, I employ him in a work-shop, his hands will be busied to the improvement of his understanding ; he will become a philosopher while he thinks himself only an artisan. In short, this practice hath other uses, which I shall speak of hereafter, and shew in what manner these philosophical amusements lead to the exercise of the proper functions of a man.

I have already observed, that the mere speculative part of science is by no means adapted to
children,

children, even when they approach adolescence; it is proper, nevertheless, though you do not enter with them too profoundly into the depth of physical theory, to connect their experiments by some chain of deduction, that they may arrange them in some order in their minds, for the sake of remembering them: for it is very difficult to retain separate and independant facts and conclusions long in the memory, without some leading clue for occasional recollection.

In your researches into the laws of nature, begin always with the most common and obvious phenomena; accustoming your pupil to look upon them always as mere facts. I take up, for instance, a stone; and, pretending to place it in the air, open my hand, and it immediately falls to the ground. I look upon Emilius, who stands all the while attentive to what I am doing, and ask him, why the stone falls? Where is there a child who would not have an answer ready to that question? There is none, not even Emilius, if I had not taken great pains to prepare him not to know how to answer it. Every one will say, The stone falls because it is heavy. And what is heavy? The thing that falls. So the stone falls because it falls. Here my little philosopher is stopt in good earnest; and thus ends my first lecture of physical theory; whether

whether he profits by it, also, in this science or not, it is a general lesson of good sense.

As a child advances in understanding, other important considerations oblige us to be more nice in the objects of his employment. As soon as he acquires so much knowledge of himself, as to conceive in what his happiness consists; or becomes sensible of such extensive relations, as to be able to judge what is fitting or unfitting to his state and condition; he is then in a situation to perceive the difference between labour and amusement, and to regard the latter only as a relaxation from the former. Objects of real utility may then make part of his study, and engage him to give a more constant application to it than he might do to mere amusements. The law of necessity, ever recurring to the mind, teaches us betimes to do that which is disagreeable, in order to prevent consequences still more displeasing. Such is the use of forecast; in the regulation of which consists all the wisdom, and depends all the misery of mankind.

Every individual would be happy: but, in order to arrive at happiness, it is first necessary to know what it is. The happiness of man, in a state of nature, is as simple as his manner of living: it consists in his being free from pain; and is constituted by health, liberty, and the

necessaries of life. The happiness of man, in a state of society, is another thing; but this is at present out of the question. I cannot too often observe that objects purely physical are those only which can interest children, particularly those whose vanity is not yet excited, and who are not already vitiated by the prejudices of opinion.

When they come to foresee their wants, their understanding is considerably advanced, and they begin to be sensible of the value of time. It is of consequence, now, to use them to employ themselves on subjects of utility; this utility, however, should be applicable to their age, and adapted to their knowledge. Every thing that depends on moral institutions and the practices of society, should not be so early presented to their view; because they are not in a capacity to understand it. It is a folly to require them to apply themselves to things, merely because they are told in general terms that such things are good for them, while they are ignorant in what that good consists; we may in vain assure them they will find their interest therein as they grow up; while they are uninterested by their present use, they are incapable of comprehending the future.

Let a child do nothing merely because he is bid; nothing is good for him which he cannot perceive

perceive to be so. In hurrying him on before his knowledge, you think yourselves making use of forecast, and you only betray the want of it. In providing him with many implements he may never use, you deprive him of the most universal and useful of all others, that of good sense. You use him to permit himself to be always conducted, and to be only a machine in the hands of others. In requiring him to be docile and tractable when he is little, you prepare him to be a credulous dupe when he is grown up. You are for ever telling him, "All I desire of you, child, is for your own advantage; though you are as yet incapable of knowing it to be so. What is it to me whether you do what I require or not? It is for your own good only you should do it." With such fine speeches as these, intended to make him wise, you only pave the way for the success of those, who may hereafter take him to some projector, alchymist, false prophet, or any kind of cheat, with a view to entrap him by some snare, or in order to make him adopt their own folly.

It is requisite men should be acquainted with many things, of which children cannot in the least comprehend the utility: but is it necessary, or even possible, that a child should learn every
 thing

thing it is requisite a man should know? Endeavour to teach a child every thing that is useful to him at his age; and you will find him full employment. Why will you insist on his application to the studies proper for an age to which he may never arrive, in prejudice of those which are proper for him at present? But, you will ask me, perhaps, whether he will have time to learn what he ought to know, when it is required of him to make use of his knowledge? This I cannot tell; but I am very certain it is impossible to learn it sooner; for our real and only true instructors are experience and sentiment. Never can man be made truly sensible of what is useful to him but from the circumstances in which he is situated. A child knows he is designed to grow up to manhood; all the ideas he can form of that state will be to him so many opportunities of instruction: but as for those which are above his capacity to comprehend, it is better he should remain in absolute ignorance of them. This whole treatise is calculated to illustrate this principle of education.

As soon as we are so far advanced as to give our pupil an idea of the word useful, we have attained a considerable influence over his future conduct; this term being very striking, provided the sense annexed to it be adapted to his years, and he see

see clearly its relation to his present welfare. Ordinary children are not affected by this term, because no care has been taken to affix to it an idea conformable to their understandings, and because, others taking upon them to provide for them what is useful, they have no need to think of it themselves, and therefore remain ignorant of the meaning of utility.

What is the use of that? this, for the future, shall be the determinate question between my pupil and me, on all occasions. On my part, I shall infallibly make use of it in answer to all his interrogatories, which may serve as a check to that multiplicity of silly, troublesome questions, with which children are incessantly teizing those about them, more for the sake of indulging themselves in a kind of imperiousness, than out of a desire of information. The child, who is taught, as the most important lesson, to know nothing but what is useful to him, will interrogate with the views of a Socrates: he will not put a question, without having an answer ready to that, which he knows will be put to him before his own is resolved.

What a powerful instrument have I here put into your hands, for the conduct of your pupil! Knowing a reason for nothing, he is reduced to silence.

silence whenever you please; while, on the other hand, you can make use of every advantage, your knowledge and experience give you, to demonstrate the utility of what you propose. For you must not mistake the end of this question; it is only to instruct him to question you in his turn; and you must expect, in whatever you propose to him afterwards, to have him reply by asking you, of what use is this or that, in the terms of your proposal.

This will lay a snare, perhaps, which a governor will not easily avoid falling into. If on a child's asking this question, you only endeavour to divert the affair, by giving him an answer he cannot well comprehend, he will think that you reason on your own ideas and not on his, and will believe what you call useful to be so to yourself only, and not to him: He will no longer place any confidence in you, and then all is over. But where is the preceptor who will stop short and own his want of knowledge or mistakes to his pupil? It is the general rule with tutors not to confess their real ignorance, whereas I make it mine to affect to be more ignorant than I am, when I cannot adapt the required information to his understanding. Hence, always apparently candid in my behaviour, he does not suspect my motives, and I gain more credit

credit with him by affecting ignorance, than other preceptors would do by concealing theirs.

In the first place, you are to consider how seldom it is proper for you to propose what he is to learn ; it is his place to desire to know, to seek for, to discover it : it is yours artfully to excite this desire, to place the object within his reach, and to furnish him with the means of attaining it. It follows hence, that your interrogations should be few, but select ; and that, as he will have much more to do with you, than you with him, you will be less exposed than he, and more often in the circumstances of saying to him, Of what use is it to you to know what you ask ?

Add to this, that, as it is of little consequence whether he learns many things, or not, provided he has a clear conception of what he does learn, and its use, whenever you have not a proper explanation of the thing required at hand, you may safely forbear to give him any at all. You may say to him without scruple ; I have no good reason to give you ; I am somehow mistaken ; and leave it there. If your instruction was really improper, it is not amiss to give it up entirely ; and, if not so, you will soon find occasion to make him sensible of its utility.

I do

I do not at all admire explanatory discourses: young people give little attention to them, and never retain them in memory. The things themselves are the best explanations. I can never enough repeat it, that we make words of too much consequence; with our prating modes of education we make nothing but praters.

Let us suppose that, while I am studying with my pupil the course of the sun, and the method of its returning to the east, he should stop me short by asking me, To what purpose is all this? What a florid discourse might I not make him, in answer to such a question? What a number of fine things might I not take occasion to expatiate on, by the way, particularly if there were any witnesses to our conversation. * I might talk to him of the utility of travelling, the advantages of commerce, the produce peculiar to every climate; of the manners of different nations, of the use of the Kalendar, of the computations of the returning seasons for agriculture, of the art of navigation and the manner of conducting a ship at sea. Politics,
natural

* I have often remarked, that the learned instructions usually given to pupils, have been calculated rather for the grown persons, in whose presence they were delivered, than for the puerile capacity of children. I am very certain, also, of the justice of this remark, as it is founded on my own repeated observation.

natural history, astronomy, and even morality itself, with the laws of nations, might all be introduced in the course of my harangue; with a view to give my pupil great ideas of the sciences, and to excite in him a desire to study them. When I had done, however, I should only have been exposing my own pedantry, without my pupil's having comprehended one single thing I had been talking about. He would have still a great mind to ask me, as before, to what end the sun returned to the east, but that he would be fearful of offending. He would therefore find his account in pretending to understand what he was thus compelled to hear. This is the practice carried on in polite education. Our Emilius, however, brought up in greater rusticity, and so difficult of comprehension, will listen to nothing of all this. At the very first word he might not understand, he would turn away and play about the room, leaving me to finish my oration by myself. We must seek, therefore, some more obvious solution: this scientific method of explication being useless to him.

We were observing the position of the forest to the north of Montmorency, when he interrupted me with his impertinent question, of "to what end is all this?" On which, I
 answer,

answer, You are in the right, we must think of this matter at leisure, and if we find this enquiry is useless, we will drop it, for we have no need of useless amusements. We then betake ourselves to some other employment, and talk no more of geography during the rest of the day.

I propose to him next morning a walk before breakfast: he likes nothing better; children are in general ever ready for running about; and mine is fit for exercise. We enter the forest, traverse the country, and rambling about till we are almost tired, we lose ourselves and know not which way to return home. Our time is spent; the heat of the day increases; we begin to grow hungry, and wander about from one place to another, among copses, woods and quarries, without meeting with any object we are acquainted with. At length overheated, famished and fatigued, we find ourselves only more and more bewildered. We sit down, therefore, to rest ourselves and deliberate on what is to be done. Supposing Emilius to have been educated like another child, he does not deliberate about the matter, but sits down and begins to cry; ignorant that we are just by the gate of Montmorenci, which is concealed from us only by the trees of a narrow coppice: these trees, however, appear an impenetrable forest to him; such a little gentleman as he, lost in the bushes.

After

SYSTEM of EDUCATION.

After some few minutes passed in silence, I say to him, with an air of disquietude, What shall we do, my dear Emilius, to get out of this forest?

EMILIUS, *all in a sweat, with the tears running down his cheeks;*

I know not: I am so weary, so hungry, so dry, I know not what to do.

ROUSSEAU.

Do you think I am in a better situation than you; or that I should not cry too if I could breakfast upon tears? Our business is not to weep, but to look about us. Look at your watch; what is it o'clock?

EMILIUS.

It is noon, and I have not yet breakfasted.

ROUSSEAU.

It is very true; it is noon, and I am fasting too.

EMILIUS.

You must then, surely, be very hungry?

ROUSSEAU.

Yes; but the worst on't is, my dinner will not come here to find me. Let me see—it is noon; that is precisely the time at which we observed yesterday the situation of this forest from Montmorenci: if we could but observe

in like manner the position of Montmorenci from this forest—

EMILIUS.

True, but yesterday we saw the forest, and we cannot from hence see the town.

ROUSSEAU.

That's our very misfortune.—If we could, by any means, but find its situation without seeing it—

EMILIUS.

O, my good friend! but how?

ROUSSEAU.

Did not we observe that the forest lay—

EMILIUS.

To the north of Montmorenci.

ROUSSEAU.

Montmorenci therefore should be—

EMILIUS.

To the south of the forest.

ROUSSEAU.

We have a method to find out the north at noon.

EMILIUS.

We have so, by the direction of our shadow.

ROUSSEAU.

But as for the south.

EMILIUS.

How shall we find that?

ROUSSEAU.

ROUSSEAU.

The south is always opposite to the north.

EMILIUS.

That's true ; we have only to take the direction contrary to our shadows : Here, this must be to the south. Montmorenci must certainly lie on this side : let us go this way.

ROUSSEAU.

You may possibly be in the right ; here, let us take this path through the wood.

EMILIUS, *clapping his hands and shouting for joy ;*

Ah ! I see Montmorenci directly before us. Come along, let us go to breakfast, to dinner, let us make haste : Astronomy I see is good for something.

Observe that if he does not actually make use of this latter expression, he will think so ; it does not signify which, provided I do not teach it him. You may be assured, also, he never will forget this day's lesson as long as he lives ; whereas had I only supposed this adventure in my chamber, all that I could have said on it would have been forgotten the next day. For this reason we ought to inculcate all we possibly can by actions, and to say only what we cannot do.

The reader will not expect I can have so little opinion of his sagacity, as to give him an example in every kind of study; but which soever may occasionally relate to the point in question, I cannot too much exhort the preceptor to adapt his explication to the capacity of his pupil; for I repeat it once more, the evil lies not in what he is ignorant of, but in what he imagines he understands.

I remember that one day endeavouring to give a child a taste for chymistry, after I had shewn him several metalline precipitations, I explained to him the method of making ink. I told him its blackness was occasioned only by the very fine particles of iron separated from the vitriol, and precipitated by an alkaline fluid. In the middle of my learned explication, the shrewd little querist stopt me short with my question, which I had taught him; and which indeed not a little embarrassed me. After thinking a little, however, I took the following method to resolve it. I ordered a bottle of wine to be brought out of the cellar, and another of common ordinary wine to be fetched from the tavern. I then took a little phial full of a solution of fixed alcali; and pouring out two glasses of
wine,

wine, one out of each bottle, I thus prepared for the experiment*.

It is customary, said I, for the venders of certain commodities to adulterate them in order to make them look better than they really are. These adulterations deceive both the eye and taste; but are in themselves hurtful, and make the adulterated commodity, notwithstanding its appearance, worse than before.

Liquors in particular, and wines more than any other, are subject to this adulteration; because the deception is not easily detected, and is very profitable to the vender. The adulteration of tart or sour wines is made with litharge, which is a preparation of lead. Lead united to an acid produces a sugar or sweet salt, which corrects the taste of sour wine, but is poisonous to those who drink it. It is requisite therefore, before we drink any wine suspected of adulteration, to know certainly whether there be litharge in it or not. Now it is by this method of reasoning I am led to the means of discovering it.

* A little preparation is necessary to every experiment exhibited to children, as it serves to render them attentive to what is doing.

I know that wine contains not only an inflammable spirit, as you have seen in the brandy distilled from it; but also an acid, as you may be convinced, by the tartar subsiding from it, and the vinegar into which it is converted.

The acid is attracted by metallic substances, and adheres to them in their solution, forming a compound salt; such, for example, as is the rust of iron, which is nothing more than the particles of the metal dissolved by the acid spirit contained in the air or in water: such also is verdigrise, which is only copper dissolved by vinegar.

At the same time this acid has a stronger attraction, however, to alkaline than to metalline substances; in so much that by the intervention of the former between the compound salts above-mentioned, the acid is separated from the metal to which it was before united, and adheres to the alkali. Hence the metalline substance, detached from the acid which kept it in a state of solution, is precipitated and makes the fluid black.

If then either of the wines before us be adulterated with litharge, its acid keeps it in a state of solution. So that if I pour this alkaline
fluid

fluid into them, it will compel the acid to let go its hold of the metal and adhere to itself; when the lead, being no longer kept floating, will again appear, trouble the wine, and at length be precipitated to the bottom of the glafs.

On the contrary, if there be no lead nor mixture of other metal in the wine *, the alkali will unite itself quietly to the acid †, the whole will remain dissolved, and you will see no precipitation.

On this, I poured the alkaline solution successively into both glasses; the liquor in one of them remaining afterwards clear and transpa-

* The wines, which are sold by retail by the wine merchants at Paris, although they should not be purposely adulterated with litharge, are seldom without some lead in them: because their measures and other implements are usually made of lead; and the wine, in passing through them, always dissolves some part. It is strange so manifestly abusive and dangerous a practice should be suffered in a city so respectable for its police. It is true, people of fashion and substance never drinking these retailed wines, they are not so liable to be poisoned.

† The vegetable acid is very mild. If it were a mineral one, their union would not be effected without fermentation.

rent; that in the other became thick and troubled, and in less than an hour we could see clearly the lead precipitated to the bottom.

There, said I, you see one of these wines is pure and genuine, and the other adulterated and poisonous. The discovery we make, by means of that kind of knowledge, of which you require to know the utility. When we know how to make ink, we know how to detect adulterated wine.

I was myself very well satisfied with the explication and example I had given; I observed, however, that it did not strike the child. It required some time for me to discover it to be very idle, and that I had been all the while talking to no purpose. For, setting aside the impossibility that a boy of twelve years of age should follow the course of my argument, the utility of the experiment would never enter his head; because tasting both wines and finding both good, he had annexed no meaning to the term of *adulteration*, which I thought I had so clearly explained; the words *pernicious* and *poisonous* conveying no idea to his apprehension.

Those relations between cause and effect of which we cannot perceive the connection, that
good:

good and evil of which we have no idea, and the necessities we have never felt, have no influence on our understanding. We have as vague notions, at fifteen years of age, of the happiness attendant on wisdom, as at thirty, of the celestial glories of the New Jerusalem. If we have no clear conceptions of the one or the other, we shall take but little trouble to obtain them; and, though our ideas were ever so precise on these subjects, we should take just as little, unless we felt some attachment to, or desire after them. It is easy to convince a child of the utility of whatever we have a mind to teach him; but it signifies little to convince him of this, unless you can persuade him also to pursue it. Reason in vain may induce us coldly to approve or blame; the passions only are the springs of action; and how can our passions be excited by objects or circumstances in which we do not perceive ourselves at all interested?

Never point out any thing to a child which is beyond his views. While he is a stranger to the relations and duties of humanity, as you cannot raise his comprehension to the state of manhood, you should bring down the state of manhood to a level with his capacity. In projecting what may be useful to him hereafter, speak to him directly only of what is appar-

D 5

rently

rently useful to him at present. Beware, also, in general, of making comparisons between your pupil and other children; let him have no rival, no competitor, not even in his corporeal exercises, as soon as he begins to reason. I had much rather he should not learn at all whatever must be taught him by means of vanity or jealousy. I would content myself, in this respect, with remarking his annual progress, and comparing his situation and exploits in the present year with those of the past. I would say to him, You are grown so much since such a time; here is the ditch you leaped, the weight you lifted, the distance you threw a stone, so far you ran without fetching breath; let us see what you can do more at present. Thus would I excite him to emulation, without making him jealous or envious of a rival; he would be desirous indeed to excel himself, and so he ought to be; I see no inconvenience in this kind of emulation.

I hate books; they only teach people to talk about what they don't understand. It is said that Hermes engraved the elements of the sciences on columns, to secure his discoveries from being lost in the time of a general deluge. Had he imprinted them on the minds of men, they had been better preserved by tradition. The organs of the memory, duly prepared, are the monuments

ments on which human science would be most indelibly engraven.

Is there no expedient to be thought of, to collect the various instructions, scattered up and down in so many voluminous tomes? to unite them under one general head, which may be easy to comprehend, interesting to pursue, and which may serve as a *stimulus*, even to children of this age? If one could but conceive a situation, in which all the natural wants of man would be displayed, in a manner adapted to the understanding of a child, and wherein the means of satisfying those wants are gradually discovered with the same ease and simplicity, it would be in a just and lively description of such a state, that we should first exercise his imagination.

I see the imagination of the philosopher already take fire. Impetuous genius! give yourself no trouble; such a situation is already discovered; it is already described, and I may say, without any impeachment to your talents, much better than you could describe it yourself; at least with more exactness, and simplicity. Since we must have books, there is one already which, in my opinion, affords a complete treatise on natural education. This book shall be the first Emilius shall read: In this, indeed,

will, for a long time, consist his whole library, and it will always hold a distinguished place among others. It will afford us the text, to which all our conversations on the objects of natural science, will serve only as a comment. It will serve us as our guide during our progress to a state of reason; and will even afterwards give us constant pleasure, unless our taste be totally vitiated. You ask impatiently, What is the title of this wonderful book? Is it Aristotle, Pliny, or Buffon? No. It is Robinson Crusoe.

Robinson Crusoe, cast ashore on a desolate island, destitute of human assistance, and of mechanical implements, providing, nevertheless, for his subsistence, for self-preservation, and even procuring for himself a kind of competency. In these circumstances, I say, there cannot be an object more interesting to persons of every age; and there are a thousand ways to render it agreeable to children. Thus, you see, I have realized that desert island, which I at first made use of only by way of comparison. Such a situation, I confess, is very different from that of man in a state of society. Very probably it will never be that of Emilius; but it is from such a state he ought to learn to estimate others.

The

The most certain method for him to raise himself above vulgar prejudices, and to form his judgement on the actual relations of things, is to take on himself the character of such a solitary adventurer, and to judge of every thing about him, as a man in such circumstances would, by its real utility. This romance beginning with his shipwreck on the island, and ending with the arrival of the vessel that brought him away, would, if cleared of its rubbish, afford Emilius, during the period we are now treating of, at once both instruction and amusement. I would have him indeed personate the hero of the tale, and be entirely taken up with his castle, his goats and his plantations; he should make himself minutely acquainted, not from books but circumstances, with every thing requisite for a man in such a situation. He should affect even his dress, wear a coat of skins, a great hat, a large hanger, in short, he should be entirely equipt in his grotesque manner, even with his umbrella, though he would have no occasion for it. I would have him, when at a loss about the measures necessary to be taken for his provision or security, upon this or the other occasion, examine the conduct of his hero; he should see if he omitted nothing, or if any thing better could be substituted in the room of what was actually done; and, on the discovery of
of

of any mistake in Robinson, should amend it in a similar case himself: for I doubt not but he will form a project of going to make a like settlement. Not unlike to this were those ancient castles in Spain, in that happy age when the height of human felicity consisted in the enjoyment of liberty and the necessaries of life.

What opportunities of instruction would such an amusement afford an able preceptor, who should project it only with a view to that end! The pupil, eager to furnish a magazine for his island, would be more ready to learn than his tutor to teach him. He would be solicitous to know every thing that is useful, and nothing else: You would in such a case have no more occasion to direct; but only to restrain him. Let us hasten, therefore, to establish him in this imaginary isle, since to this he confines his present happiness; for the time will now soon come, in which, if he is desirous of life, it is not to live alone, and in which even a man *Friday*, the want of whom does not now affect him, would not be long satisfactory.

The practice of simple manual arts, to the
exercise of which the abilities of the individual

dual are equal, leads to the invention of the arts of industry, the exercise of which requires the concurrence of many. The former may be practised by hermits, and savages; but the latter can be exercised only in a state of society, and render that state necessary. While man is subject only to the calls of physical necessity, he is capable of satisfying them himself: but, by the introduction of superfluous wants, the joint concern and distribution of labour become indispensable: for though a man by his own labour, when alone, procures only subsistence for an individual, yet an hundred men working in concert, will easily procure, in the same time, subsistence for double the number. As soon, therefore, as one part of mankind take upon themselves to live idle, it becomes necessary that the concurrent labour of numbers should supply the place of those who live without work.

Your greatest care should be to keep from your pupil the notions of those social relations, which he is not in a capacity to comprehend; but when the connections of his ideas oblige you to speak of the mutual dependance of mankind, instead of presenting him at first the moral side of the question, divert his attention as much as possible to industry and the mechanic arts, which render men useful to one another. In going
about

about with him to the work-shops of various artificers, never let him see any thing performed without lending a hand to the work, nor come out of the shop without perfectly understanding the reason of what he observes there. To this end, you should work yourself, and in every thing set him an example. To make him a master, be you in every thing the apprentice; and reflect that he will learn more by one hour of manual labour, than he will retain from a whole day's verbal instructions.

The different arts are entitled to various proportions of public esteem, and that in an inverse ratio to their real use. This esteem is directly as their inutility, and so it politically ought to be. The most useful arts are those which are the worst paid for or least rewarded; because the number of workmen is proportioned to the wants of the whole society, and the labour the poor must purchase must necessarily be at a low price. On the contrary, those important artificers, who, by way of distinction, are termed artists, and are employed only in the service of the rich and idle, set an arbitrary price on their workmanship; and as the excellence of their baubles is mere matter of opinion, their high price constitutes great part of their merit, and they are esteemed in proportion

portion to what they cost. The value thus set upon them is not on account of any use they are of to the rich, but because they are too costly to be purchased by the poor. *Nolo habere beneficia nisi quibus populus inviderit* *.

What will become of your pupils, if you permit them to adopt this ridiculous prejudice, if you encourage it yourself, or see them, for example, enter with more respect the shop of a jeweller than that of a locksmith? What a judgment will they form of the real merit of the arts and the intrinsic value of things, when they see whim and caprice universally opposed to real utility, and find the more a thing costs, the less it is worth? If ever such ideas as these take root in their minds, you may as well give up at once the remaining part of their education; they will, in spite of all you can do, be educated like the rest of the world, and you will have taken, for fourteen years past, all your trouble for nothing.

Emilius will see things in a very different light, while he is employed in furnishing his island. Robinson Crusoe would have set a greater value on the stock in trade of a petty ironmonger, than on that of the most magnificent.

* Petron.

ficent and best furnished toy-shop in Europe. The first had appeared to him a respectable personage, while the owner of the latter had been despised as frivolous and contemptible.

I doubt not but some sagacious member of society will make the following objection. “ My son, he will say, is formed to live in the world; not to reside among a set of philosophers, but to herd with fools; it is proper, therefore, he should be acquainted with those follies that influence their conduct. The knowledge of things, as they are, may be useful; but that of men and opinions is much more so; for, in society, the knowledge of mankind is the best means to make the most of them, and he is the wisest man who acquires the most and makes the best use of it. To what purpose, then, is it to give children the ideas of an imaginary order of things directly contrary to that which custom has established, and by which they must regulate their behaviour? Read them, first, lectures to make themselves wise, and then you may take what method you will to instruct them in what respect others are fools.”

Such are the specious maxims, on which is founded the false prudence of parents, who endeavour

deavour to make their children slaves to those prejudices in which they themselves are educated. How many things are necessary to be known, previous to the study of mankind ! This is the last and most arduous task of the philosopher, and you would have it be the first of a child. Before you instruct him in the knowledge of your own sentiments, you should begin, by teaching him to form some estimate of their truth and propriety : Our opinions are imparted to children as reasons ; is this the way to teach them the folly of them ? In order to attain wisdom, it is necessary to be able to discern what is not so. How shall your child know how to study mankind, if he is incapable to judge of their sentiments, or to detect their errors ? It is a misfortune for him to know their opinions, while he is ignorant whether they be true or false. Teach him first, therefore, what things are in themselves ; and you may afterwards instruct him at leisure, what are the general sentiments of mankind. Thus will he be enabled to judge of our opinions by the criterion of truth, and soar above the mistaken notions of the vulgar. To adopt prejudices is not to know them as such, nor are the multitude governed by those who are like themselves. If you begin by making your pupil acquainted with the opinions of the world, before you have taught him
how

how to judge of them, you may assure yourself, say what you will, they will become his, and you will never after be able to eradicate them. I conclude this subject, therefore, by laying down as a maxim, that to render a youth sensible and judicious, we ought to form his opinion of things, and not to dictate ours.

You will observe, that hitherto I have said nothing to my pupil about mankind; he would have had too much good sense to understand me, if I had; his connections with, and relations to, his fellow creatures, are not as yet striking and conspicuous enough to enable him to judge of others by himself. He has no ideas of human nature but what center in his own person, and even his self-knowledge is but very confined. If his ideas, however, are contracted, at least they are just. He knows not the relative situation of others, but he is sensible of his own, and keeps his place. Instead of restraining him by social ties, the force of which he could not comprehend, we have bound him by the obvious chains of necessity. He is as yet little better than a mere physical being; let us continue to treat him as such.

He forms his judgment, and estimates the value of the works, both of nature and art, by their relation

relation to his own convenience, security, and preservation. Hence, he looks upon iron as a more precious metal than gold, and glass to be more valuable than diamonds. For the same reason he hath more respect for a shoe-maker, or a mason, than for all the celebrated jewellers in Europe. A pastry-cook is, in his opinion, a person of singular importance, and the whole academy of sciences of less consequence than the respectable personage of the meanest confectioner. Goldsmiths, engravers, and gilders, are, with him, idle insignificant people, who amuse themselves in employments frivolous and useless; nay, he does not hold even a watch-maker in very high estimation. Happy in the enjoyment of this native liberty, he profits by time without knowing its value. That tranquillity, which, undisturbed by the violence of passion, makes its succession equal, serves him instead of a machine to measure the quantity elapsed *. In supposing his pocket to be furnished with a watch, as in supposing him to cry, I only made use on that occasion of an Emilius vulgarly educated, for the sake of illustration :

* We lose our constitutional measure of time, when the passions would subject its duration to their will. The philosopher's time-piece is evenness of temper and tranquillity of mind; he is always in his own time, and knows it exactly.

illustration: for, in fact, a child, so different from all others, can hardly be made use of as an example, in any case.

There is another order of distinction, not less natural, and still more judicious, according to which the arts may be ranked agreeable to their order in that necessary chain which connects them together; placing the most independent in the first class, and those which depend on the greatest number of others, in the last. This method of arrangement, which may furnish important considerations on the order of society in general, is similar to the former, in that it is equally subject to be perverted by the prepossessions and caprices of mankind. Hence it is, that all manufactured substances, are first laboriously operated on by workmen below consideration, and almost without pay; that the more hands they pass through, the more expensive becomes the labour, and the more creditable the profession of each successive artisan. I will not here enquire whether it be true, that industry is more exerted in the elegant arts, than in those which give the first form to the massive substance, and fit it for common uses: But I affirm that in all cases, those arts which are the most general and indispensable, are incontestibly those which deserve to be held in the greatest esteem

esteem; and that such as require the least assistance from others, deserve still less to be degraded lowest of all, when they are at the same time the most free and independent. These rules form the true criterion whereby to judge of the merit, and estimate the value, of arts and industry. All other are arbitrary and capricious. The first and most respectable of all arts and professions is that of agriculture: Next to the husbandman I rank the smith; to the smith succeeds the carpenter, and so on. A child, who should not have acquired a misjudging partiality from vulgar prejudices, would rank them also precisely in the same order. How many important reflections on this subject, may not Emilius deduce from Robinson Crusoe! What will he think in seeing the arts carried to perfection, by being divided and subdivided into such a number of branches, and by the invention of such an infinite variety of implements to work with? Will he not call their ingenuity ridiculous, and think they are afraid their arms and fingers are not fit for use, that they have contrived so many expedients to work without them? To exercise one trade, they must be furnished with tools by a thousand others: The artificers of a whole town must be employed to set any one of them to work. As to my com-
panion

panion and myself, our ingenuity lies in our dexterity; we make use of the tools we carry about us. Let the proudest workman belonging to the nicknackitories of Paris come to our desert island, his talents useleſs here, he will be glad in his turn to ſerve an apprenticeship to us.

Confine not your obſervation here, reader, to the corporeal exerciſe, and manual dexterity of my pupil; but conſider the proper methods we take to gratify his childiſh curioſity; remark the effects of his good ſenſe, his genius for invention, his foreſight, and other intellectual abilities. In whatever he ſees, or is employed in, he wants to know the reaſon of every thing; tracing back one inſtrument from another, till he arrive at the firſt and moſt ſimple. He takes nothing upon ſuppoſition or on truſt; but reſuſes even to learn any thing that requires a previous knowledge of which he is not poſſeſſed. If he ſees, for inſtance, a file, or a ſpring, he immediately recurs to the method of working up the materials from the ore. If he ſees the ſides of a cheſt fitted together, he muſt know the methods of felling the timber and ſawing it into planks. If he be, himſelf, at work, he never fails to reflect on every new tool he makes uſe of, and to conſider how he might have conſtructed ſuch an implement, or have made ſhift without it.

There

There is an error, however, difficult to avoid, in employing your pupil in these mechanical operations ; and that is, you will always suppose him to have a taste for those you are fond of yourself : but you must beware, that, while you are seeking your own amusement, you do not fatigue and disgust your pupil, who perhaps will not let you perceive it. Your little artisan should find in himself every thing needful to execute his designs, but he should find in you every thing needful to direct him in those designs. You should observe him, and watch his motions continually, without his knowing it ; you should anticipate his thoughts, and prevent those which are improper ; in short, you should keep him so employed, that he should not only be sensible of the use of his own talents, but that he should take delight in his employment, from a like sense of its utility.

The intercourse of the arts consists in the reciprocal exchange of industry, that of commerce in the exchange of commodities, and that of money in the exchange of bills and cash : All these are intimately connected with each other, and we have already acquired ideas of the principles on which they are founded, from our dispute with Robert, the gardener. At

present we have nothing more to do than to generalize those ideas, and to extend them to a variety of examples, in order to give Emilius a just notion of the nature of commercial connections; which may be exemplified by the natural history of the produce peculiar to different climates, by enumerating the arts and sciences which relate to navigation, and representing the various obstacles that are surmounted in transporting commodities from one country to another. No society can exist without making use of the expedients of exchange, nor can any exchange be carried on without some common standard: this also must be formed on some principle of equality. Hence every society has, for its first law, some conventional equality, both of persons and of property.

The conventional equality between persons, is very different from the natural, and therefore requires the protection of government and laws. The political knowledge of a child should be very clear and confined: he ought to have no other idea of government in general than what relates to the notion concerning the right of property which he hath already imbibed.

The conventional equality, between articles of property, gave rise to the invention of money;

ney; which serves as the means of comparing the value of the different species of such articles; and in this sense money may be denominated the real bond of society. Every thing, however, may be converted into money. Formerly cattle were made use of as such, so at present, in some countries, are shells, teeth, &c. The money of Sparta was iron, that of Sweden has been made of leather, as ours is now of gold and silver.

Metals, as the most easily transported, are generally made choice of to form this mean term in our usual course of exchange. To facilitate this end, by sparing the trouble of recurring to weights and measures, they are converted into regular coin. For the stamp imprinted thereon is no more than an attestation, that the piece so marked is of such a certain weight; the sovereign only having a right to coin money, so long as he is possessed of a right to require his attestation to pass unquestioned through a whole people, or so long as he reserves to himself such exclusive privilege.

The use of this invention, thus explained, will be readily perceived by a child of the dullest apprehension. It is, indeed, difficult to make a direct comparison between commodi-

ties of different kinds ; as for example, between cloth and grain : but when a standard common to both, such as money, is established, it is easy for the manufacturer and husbandman to apply the value of their respective articles thereto, and to judge what quantity of each is equivalent to the other. For if so many yards of broad cloth be worth a certain sum of money, and so many bushels of wheat be worth the like sum, the draper, in taking the wheat for his cloth, makes a fair and equitable exchange. Thus it is, that through the medium of money, the produce and manufactures of different kinds and countries may be estimated and compared with each other.

Go no farther than this, nor enter into any disquisition concerning the moral effects of this institution. It is of consequence, in every case, to bring your pupil acquainted with the nature and end of every custom before you point out its abuse. If you attempt to explain to children in what manner signs are substituted for things, that money hath been productive of the numerous chimeras of prejudice and caprice, and that countries abounding in silver and gold must be proportionably destitute of real wealth ; in doing this, I say, you treat them, not only as if they were professed philosophers, but also as men of experience ; and attempt to give them concep-
tions

tions of what even few philosophers have clearly understood.

To what a variety of interesting subjects may we not, by these means, direct the curiosity of our pupil, without ever quitting those real and sensible relations, which are contained within the sphere of his knowledge, or exciting in his mind one idea beyond the reach of his capacity. A judicious preceptor will not dwell, with heavy prolixity, on frivolous subjects, but be constantly preparing his pupil for the knowledge of those important relations, which will one day be necessary for him, in order to his forming a right judgment of the good or evil customs of society. He will endeavour to adapt his conversation and amusements to the turn of mind he has given him. A question that would scarce excite the attention of another child, will perplex Emilius for six months together.

I take an opportunity, we will suppose, to carry him to dinner at the house of some opulent family; where, when we arrive, we find great preparations making for an elegant entertainment, much company, a number of servants, a variety of dishes, and a superb side-board of plate. There is something intoxicating, to those who are unaccustomed to it, in this

appearance of splendor and festivity. I foresee the effect it will have on my pupil; and, therefore, in the midst of the hurry and clamour that prevail round the table, I whisper in his ear, and ask him, how many hands he thinks were employed in furnishing the entertainment before us. What a crowd of ideas will those few words bring thronging into his mind! In an instant his delirium vanishes. He muses, reflects, begins to calculate, and puzzles himself with thinking. While grave philosophers, inspired by the wine, or perhaps by the charms of the ladies, degrade themselves by talking idly, and, in the gaiety of their hearts, behave like children, Emilius sits philosophising by himself at one corner of the table: he applies to me with an interrogation, which I refuse to answer, deferring it to another opportunity. At this he grows uneasy, he cannot eat a morsel, nor drink a drop more, but burns with impatience to get away from table, in order to converse with me more freely. What an object this for his curiosity to work upon! What a text, pregnant with instruction! With a sound judgment, unbiaſſed by prepossession, and untainted with prejudice, what ideas must he form of luxury, when he comes to find that all the countries in the world have been laid under contribution, that twenty millions of hands have

have been for a long time employed, that thousands of men, perhaps, have lost their lives, and all this to present him, in such public pomp at noon, what he may privately disburthen himself of before night?

Be very attentive to those conclusions which the heart of a child will deduce in secret from all his observations. If you have taken less pains with yours than I have prescribed, he may be tempted, in such a case as the above, to give his reflections quite a different turn, and look upon himself as a person of very great importance in the world, in seeing so much pains taken to provide for his dinner. If you foresee this sentiment, you may easily prevent it, or at least presently efface the impression it makes on him. Being as yet ignorant of the means of appropriating any thing to himself, except by actual possession and enjoyment, he cannot judge of their convenience or inconvenience to him, but by the pleasure they afford him. Now the simple comparison, between such a splendid and formal repast, and a plain and homely dinner, provided by his own labour, and seasoned by appetite, liberty and ease, is sufficient to make him sensible that all that magnificent appearance of festivity, had been of no real use, and that, his hunger being as fully satisfied at the table of the

E. 4.

peasant.

peasant as at that of a lord, he enjoys nothing at the one more than at the other, which he can truly call his own.

Let us imagine what a polite governor would say to a child on such an occasion. Recollect the circumstances, he would say, of each repast, and determine within yourself which afforded you the greatest pleasure. At which have you demonstrated the greatest expressions of joy? At which have you shewn the keenest appetite, drank the most cheerfully, and laughed the most heartily? Which lasted the longest without making you weary, or kept you longest from being again hungry? Yet, see the difference: this brown bread, which you relish so well, comes from the corn sown and reaped by the peasant; his thick wine, so refreshing and wholesome, is produced from his own vine; his tablecloth is made of his own flax, spun in the winter by his wife and children: no other hands than those of his family have been employed in providing for his table; the nearest mill and the next market town are to him the extremities of the universe. What then have you really enjoyed of all that profusion, with which the most distant parts of the earth, and the complicated industry of man, so splendidly furnished the table at which you lately dined? If that
splendor

splendor did not add to the satisfaction of your repast, what did you gain by all that superfluity? What did you find there made for you? Had you even been the master of the house, might he add, the magnificence would be still less, with any propriety, to be called yours: for your solicitude to display the wealth and plenty you enjoyed, to others, would absolutely deprive you of such enjoyment: you only would have all the trouble, and your guests the pleasure.

This discourse may be very fine, but it would be of no use to Emilius; being above his comprehension, and, moreover, to dictate his reflections is not our custom. Speak to him, therefore, in a more simple manner. Having made both the above experiments, say to him some fine morning, Where shall we dine to-day? round that mountain of plate which covered three fourths of the table, and the desert of artificial flowers and looking-glasses? among those women with their great hoop-petticoats, who treated you like a puppet, and wanted to make you talk what you did not understand? or shall we rather go to the village two leagues off, where the good people received us so joyfully, and gave us such excellent cream? Emilius will not hesitate a moment to determine; for he is neither given to babbling, nor puffed up by vanity; besides this,

he hates restraint, and has no relish for high-seasoned ragouts : but he is always ready to run about the fields, and loves fine fruit, fresh vegetables, good cream, and good people. * There is no doubt but the reflection you want to inculcate, will suggest itself, during our excursion ; and that our pupil will observe, that the people, who furnish out such grand entertainments, throw away their labour, or that they are quite ignorant of our enjoyments.

The examples, which I introduce by way of illustration, though proper for one subject, may be improper for a thousand others. If the reader enters into the spirit of them, however, he will see they may be varied as occasion requires ;
their

* The taste which I suppose my pupil to have for the country, is the natural effect of his education. Having, besides, nothing of that foppish and affected air, which is so taking with the women, he is less caressed than other children ; and of course is less pleased with, and less spoiled by, being in their company, the charms of which he is at present, incapable to perceive. I have taken care, in particular, not to learn him to kiss the hand ; to repeat their ceremonious nonsense, or shew them in preference to the other sex, even the respect which is their due. I lay it down as an inviolable rule, to require nothing of him, of which he is not in a capacity to comprehend the reason : now no good reason can be given, why a child should treat one sex with more respect than another.

their application depending on the genius and disposition of the pupil; a knowledge of which is acquired by the opportunities given them to display themselves. It cannot be expected that in the space of three or four years, we should give a child, even of the most happy turn and disposition, such an idea of the arts and sciences, as is sufficient to enable him to study them without farther assistance. In thus bringing him acquainted, however, with the various objects, requisite for him to know, we put him in a situation to display his genius and taste by degrees, to make the first advances to their proper objects, and to indicate the route which must be taken to second the designs of nature.

Another advantage arising from our thus giving him a just, but limited, series of ideas, is that of shewing him their proper relations and connection, of placing every thing in a due order in his estimation, and of preventing the rise of those prepossessions which most men entertain, in favour of the talents they cultivate, and to the prejudice of such as they have neglected. He, who perceives the order of the whole, sees the due place of every part; and, though a man, who knows only a part, if intimately acquainted with it,

may be styled a man of knowledge, the other only, is the man of judgment; and it is to be remembered that the great object in view, in our method of education, is judgment, and not science.

However this be, my method is independent of the examples I make use of to illustrate it. It is founded on the progress of the human faculties at different periods, and on the choice of those proper objects on which such faculties should be employed. I conceive it will be very easy to find another method which will promise better; but, if it be less adapted to our species, age and sex, I doubt much if it will be attended with the same success.

In the commencement of this second period of childhood, we took the advantage of our abilities exceeding our wants, to extend our views beyond our own persons: we soared into the expanse of the heavens, took measure of the earth, deduced the laws of nature; in a word, we have explored our whole island: let us now, therefore, return home to our more immediate habitation; happy to find at our entrance, that no enemy hath taken possession, or threatens to wrest it from us by force!

What

What remains for us to do after observing every thing that surrounds us ? To make use of every thing we can appropriate, and to employ our curiosity to our advantage. Hitherto we have made a provision of tools and implements, of every kind, without knowing to what uses we shall have occasion to put them. Perhaps, useless to ourselves, they might yet be of service to others ; and perhaps we in our turn, may have need of theirs : Hence we should all find our account in making an exchange. In order to do this, however, it is necessary to learn our reciprocal wants, every one should know what the other possesses that might be of use to himself, and what he might be willing to accept in return. Let us suppose, for instance, ten men, each of whom stands in need of ten different things. If they go about separately to supply their wants, each must apply himself to ten different kinds of occupation ; but, on account of their different turn and genius, some will succeed better at one occupation, and others at another : thus though collectively they might succeed equally in all : yet, each attempting it separately, they are every one but ill served. Let us form a little society, therefore, of these ten individuals, and let each apply himself solely, to that kind of occupation at which he is most expert ; by this expedient
each

each will profit as much by the talents of the rest as if he had possessed them all. By continued application, also, to one kind of employment, they would all acquire additional dexterity, and thus would not only be completely provided for themselves, but soon acquire a superfluity for the use of others. This is the apparent principle on which are founded our various mechanical and other institutions. It is not my business to examine here into the consequences, I have already done it in another treatise.

On this principle, a man who should be desirous to consider himself as a solitary and independent being, could not fail of being miserable. It would be even impossible for him to subsist; for, finding the earth already occupied and divided into *meum* and *tuum*, and having no implements or property, by what means would he provide himself with the necessaries of life? In departing ourselves from a state of nature, we oblige all our fellow-creatures to do the like; no one can remain therein, in spite of the rest; and it would be to act most preposterously against nature to be obstinately tenacious of a situation, in which it is impossible we should exist: for the first law of nature is that of self-preservation. Thus
may

may we form, by degrees, in the mind of a child, ideas of social relations, even before he really becomes an active member of society. Emilius fees already, that, to acquire implements for his own use, he must possess some for the use of others, which he may exchange for those he stands in need of: thus I lead him easily to perceive the necessity of this commercial intercourse, and prepare him, when occasion offers, to turn it to his advantage.

Sir, I must live, was the saying of a wretched libeller to a minister of state, who reproached him with the infamy of his profession. *I cannot see the necessity of it*, replied the minister very coldly. This reply, excellent as it was from a secretary of state, had been unjust and inhuman from any other person. Every man must live. This argument, which every one thinks more or less cogent, in proportion to his humanity, appears to me unanswerable, with respect to the person who urges it. Of all natural antipathies, our aversion to die is the strongest; it follows, therefore, that necessity has no law, and that nature authorises a man, who hath no other possible means of living, to take any step for his preservation. The principles, on which a virtuous man acquires a contempt for life, and learns to sacrifice

fice his existence to his duty, are very different from this primitive simplicity. Happy people, among whom goodness requires no self-denial, and men may be just without virtue! If there be so miserable a state in the world, as that wherein men cannot subsist without injustice, and whose citizens must of necessity be knaves, it is not their criminals who ought to be hanged, but those who made them such.

As soon as Emilius knows what life is, my first care shall be to teach him to preserve it. Hitherto I have made no distinction of situation, rank, or fortune, nor shall I distinguish them otherwise in the sequel; for man is the same in every rank and situation. The rich have not better appetites than the poor, nor quicker digestion: The master has not longer arms or stronger than his servant: a great man is no taller than the meanest artisan; in a word, our natural wants being the same in every situation of life, the means of providing for them ought to be in all the same. Adapt the education of a man to his personal and not accidental abilities. Don't you see that, by bringing him up only to fill one station in life, you make him unfit for every other! and that mere accident may render all the pains you have taken useless, or destructive to him? Is there a more ridiculous being

being on earth than a lord, become a beggar, and retaining in his misery the prejudices attached to his birth? What is more vile and contemptible than a rich man, become poor, sensible of the disgrace of poverty, and reduced to the lowest of the human species? The one hath no other resource than to turn common cheat, and the other servilely to put on a livery, with this fine phrase in their mouths? *we must live.*

You make a dependance on the actual order of society, without thinking that order subject to unavoidable revolutions, and that it is impossible to foresee or prevent that which may affect your children. The high may be reduced low, and the rich may become poor, and even the monarch dwindle into a subject. Are these changes of fortune so unfrequent, that you can flatter yourself that your pupil will be exempt from them? We certainly are approaching the crisis of human establishments, the age of political revolutions *. Who can assure you what will be
your

* I hold it impossible, that the great monarchies of Europe can subsist much longer; they all affect magnificence and splendor. Every state that doth this, is upon its decline. I could give very particular and cogent reasons for this assertion; but it may not be proper; and indeed they are but too obvious.

your lot? All that men have made, they may destroy. There are no characters indelible but those imprinted by nature, and nature never made man royal, noble, or rich. What then will become of the pupil you have educated to live only with splendor, when debased into indigence and meanness? What will become of a farmer of the revenues, whose soul delights in nothing but wealth, when he is reduced to want and beggary? How miserable must be the situation of that pampered helpless being, who, destitute of every thing, is incapable of providing in the least for himself, and places all his satisfaction in things dependent on others? Happy is he who knows how to quit a rank that is quitting him, and to remain still a man in spite of fortune. Let others lavish what encomiums they please on the frantic behaviour of the vanquished monarch, who wanted to bury himself alive in the ruins of his throne; for my part, I hold him in contempt. It appears to me, that his existence depended on his crown, and that had he not been a king, he would have been nothing at all: But the monarch who can throw aside the robes of royalty and be still himself, is, in my opinion, infinitely superior to a crown. From the rank of a king, which may be filled up by a coward, a knave, or a fool, he rises to
that

that of a Man, which so few are able to fill with decency and dignity. Such a man may brave the vicissitudes of fortune, and will triumph over them: He owes nothing to any one but himself, and though destitute of all adventitious substance, is not therefore annihilated; he is still something. Yes, I prefer infinitely the character of a king of Syracuse turned school-master at Corinth, of a king of Macedon become a notary at Rome, to that of an unhappy Tarquin ignorant how to subsist without a kingdom; of an heir to a race of kings, become the sport of all who are brutal enough to exult in his misery, wandering from court to court, in search of relief, and meeting on every side with nothing but mockery, insult and affronts; and all for want of knowing how to exercise any employment different from that to which he has been educated, and which is no longer in his power.

Whether we consider ourselves as men or citizens, or whatever be our station in life, we can contribute nothing more than our own personal abilities to society; all our other acquirements belong to it, in spite of ourselves; hence, when a man becomes rich he must either not enjoy his wealth himself, or the public will enjoy it also. In the first case, he only robs others
of

of what he also deprives himself; and even in the last he gives them nothing. Thus the debt he owes society remains undischarged so long as he pays it only with the use of his property. But, you will say, perhaps, my progenitor, in amassing his wealth, was of public service. He might be so, and therefore, may have discharged his own debt, but not yours. Nay you lie under still greater obligations, than if you had been born poor, as you have had greater opportunities of profiting by education. It is not equitable that what one man hath done for the public should discharge another of what it has a right to expect from him: for every one, standing indebted, in himself, to society, cannot substitute any thing in the room of his personal service. A father cannot transmit to his son the right of being useless to his fellow-creatures; and yet, according to your notions, he actually does this, by transmitting to him his wealth, the proof and reward of his labour. The man who earns not his subsistence, but eats the bread of idleness, is no better than a thief; and a pensioner, who is paid by the state for doing nothing, differs little, according to my notion of things, from a robber who is supported by the plunder he makes on the highway. Man, in a state of solitude, not being indebted to the assistance or good offices of others, hath a right to live as he pleases.

But

But in a state of society, where he must be necessarily maintained at the expence of the community, he certainly owes the state so much labour as will pay for his subsistence; and this without exception to rank or persons. To labour, then, is the indispensable duty of social or political man. Rich or poor, strong or weak, every idle citizen is a knave.

Now of all the occupations, which serve to furnish subsistence to mankind, those which approach nearest to a state of nature are the manual arts: of all conditions of life, the most independent of fortune or the caprices of mankind, is that of the artisan. The artisan depends only on his own labour; he is as free as the husbandman is a slave; for the latter depends on the produce of his fields, which lies at the discretion of others. The enemy, the sovereign, a powerful neighbour, a law-suit, may run away with the crop, which he hath laboriously toiled for: He may be distressed a thousand ways by means of the local stability of his property; whereas, if an artisan be oppressed in one place, his baggage is easily packed up, he folds his arms about him, and disdainfully marches off to another. Agriculture is, nevertheless, the principal profession of mankind; it is the most honest, the most useful, and of course the most creditable in the world. I have no
need

need to bid Emilius apply himself to agriculture : It is already his study : Every kind of rustic employment is familiar to him. His first application was to the labours of the husbandman, and it is in those he regularly exercises himself. I say to him, therefore, cultivate the land thou inheritest from thy fathers. But it may be said, suppose this were to be lost, or that a child had no paternal inheritance, what must he do then ? Learn a trade.

My child learn a trade ! make my son a mechanic ! consider, sir, what you advise—I do, madam, I consider this matter better than you, who would reduce your child to the necessity of being a lord, a marquis, or a prince, or perhaps one day or other to be less than nothing. I am desirous of investing him with a title that cannot be taken from him, that will in all times and places command respect ; and, I can tell you, whatever you may think of it, he will have fewer equals in this rank than in that he may derive from you.

The letter destroys and the spirit maketh alive. I would not have him learn a trade, merely for the sake of knowing how to exercise it, but that he may overcome the prejudices usually conceived against it. You will never be reduced, you say, to work for your bread. So much the

worse for you ; I say, so much the worse. But, no matter ; if you labour not through necessity, do it for reputation. Stoop to the situation of an artisan that you may raise yourself above your own. To make fortune subservient to your will, you must begin by rendering yourself independent. To triumph in the opinion of the world, you must begin by despising that opinion,

Remember, I do not advise you to acquire a talent, but a trade ; a mechanical art, in the exercise of which the hands are more employed than the head ; an art by which you will never get a fortune, but may be enabled to live without one. I have often observed, and that in families far enough removed from all appearance of wanting bread, a provident father very anxious to furnish his children with various kinds of knowledge, that, at all events, they might be capacitated to earn a subsistence. In doing this, also, such parents conceived they did a great deal in the way of making provision for their offspring, in case of the worst accidents. In this, however, they did nothing ; because the resources, with which they thus provided their children, depend on the same good fortune, of which they wanted to render them independent. So that a man possessed of the finest talents,
unless

unless he find himself in favourable circumstances to display them, is as liable to perish for want, as he that hath none.

Ever since the intrigues of party have been in fashion, it requires as much art and assiduity to live genteely by a liberal profession, as to regain the estate you may have lost. If you have cultivated those arts, whose success depends on the reputation of the artist ; if you have fitted yourself for such employments as are in the gift of the great ; of what use to you will be all your acquirements, when, disgusted with the world, you disdain to make use of those means, without which it is impossible you should succeed ? Let us suppose you may have studied politics, and made yourself perfectly acquainted with the interests of princes ; all this is very well ; but what will you do with your knowledge, if you know not how to get access to a minister of state, have no patroness in a woman of quality, no interest with the commissioners of the several departments of the finances ; if you have not the art of making yourself agreeable to them, or the baseness to do all the dirty business in which they might find you employment ? But you are an architect or painter, we will say. It is very well ; they are noble arts : but you must make your abilities known

to the public. Do you think to carry your point merely by exposing your designs at an exhibition? No, no, this will not do. You must be previously admitted into the academy; you must be honoured by the protection of the great: You must throw aside your pencil and rule, take coach, and drive about from house to house, to make interest for reputation in your profession. At the same time you are to observe that the houses you are to visit, have all Swifs or other porters, who understand nothing but facts, and have the gift of hearing only in their hands. Are you desirous of teaching any of the arts and sciences you have learned; to become a teacher of geography, of the mathematics, of languages, of musick or design? To do this you must find scholars, and of course advocates and puffers. It is of more consequence to be acquainted with the arts of quackery and imposition, than to excel in your profession; and you may depend on it, if you know nothing but what you profess, you will ever be treated as a blockhead.

Thus you see how unserviceable will be all those fine accomplishments on which you depend, and how much you stand in need of others to profit by these. What then must become of you in this humiliating state of depression? The

rebuffs you meet with will debase without instructing you; subject more than ever to the caprice of public prejudice, how will you raise yourself above it, when it is become the arbiter of your fortune? How will you be able to despise that meanness and vice which are necessary to your subsistence? You would depend on the encouragement of wealth, and would soon become dependent on the persons of the rich; you would have only added mortification to servility, and loaded yourself with misery. Thus would you behold yourself poor without being free; the most wretched and contemptible state into which it is possible to fall.

But if, instead of recurring to these sublime professions, which are rather calculated to nourish the mind than the body, you apply yourself, when occasion requires, to the use of your hands, all these difficulties will disappear; the arts of servility are needless; your resources are at hand the moment you want to profit by them: probity and honour are no obstacles to your subsistence; you have no need to fear or flatter the great, to creep or cringe to knaves, to be complaisant to the world, or to be either a borrower or a thief, which is much the same thing when a man sees no prospect

spect of paying what he borrows. The opinion of others will not affect you ; you will be under no necessity of paying your court to any one, you will have no ideot to humour, or Swifs to soothe, no courtezan to bribe, nor what is worse, to flatter. Let knaves jostle each other and thrust themselves into preferment ; it is nothing to you : This will not hinder you, in your obscure situation, from being an honest man or gaining a livelihood. You have only to go into the first shop, of the trade you have learned, and desire employment ; and it will be readily given you. Before noon you will have earned your dinner ; and, if you are sober and industrious, before the week is out you will have earned enough to subsist on a fortnight ; thus may you live, free, healthy, sincere, diligent and honest : A man's time is not thrown away in learning to make this provision.

I am determined, therefore, that Emilius shall learn a trade. A creditable one, to be sure ! you will say. I should like to know the meaning of that word. Is not every employment creditable that is useful ? I would not have him learn to be an embroiderer, a gilder, or varnisher, like the fine gentleman of Mr. Locke. I would have him neither a fidler, a

player, nor a pamphleteer. Except those professions, and a few of a similar nature, he might take his choice of all others; I would confine him to nothing. I had much rather he should be a cobbler than a poet; that he should learn to pave the highway, than enamel or paint the flowers on china. But, you will say, spies, bailiffs followers, and even hangmen are useful people in their way. That they are so, is the fault of government, which might render them useless: But to give up this point; I was indeed mistaken, it is not enough to fix on a trade useful to society; it should be such a one as doth not require those who exercise it to be possessed of those detestable qualities of mind, which are incompatible with humanity. We will recur, therefore, to the term you made use of, and chuse a creditable employment, always remembering, however, that nothing should be called creditable that is not at the same time useful.

A celebrated modern author, whose books are full of extensive projects and confined views, made the vows of chastity, like other priests of his communion, and had, therefore, no wife of his own. Being a little more scrupulous, also, in having to do with the wives of others
than

than many of his profession, it is said, he chose to have pretty servant maids, with whose assistance he endeavoured to repair, as well as possible, the wrong he had done his species by entering into such rash engagements. He looked upon it as a duty incumbent on a citizen, to provide children for the state, and with the tribute he paid of this kind, he peopled the class of artisans. As soon as his children were arrived at a proper age, he put them all to some profession agreeable to their inclinations; excepting against those only which were idle, frivolous, or subject to the fashion; such, for example, as is that of a peruke-maker, which is not at all necessary, and may some time or other become useless: unless nature, indeed, should take it into her head not to furnish our heads with hair.

By these views, should we be conducted in choosing a trade for Emilius; or rather, we ought to leave that choice entirely to him; as, the maxims he hath already imbibed, giving him a natural contempt for things that are useless, he will never think of throwing away his time in an unprofitable employment; and he judges of their being profitable by their real utility: he would choose a trade that might have been of use to Robinson Crusoe in his desert island.

By giving a child a successive view of the various productions of nature and art, by exciting his curiosity and tracing its tendency, we may be enabled to study his taste, inclinations and propensities ; to discover the first spark of his genius, if he have one of any particular turn. But it is a common error which you ought carefully to avoid, that of attributing to the warmth of genius the mere effect of opportunity, and to construe into an inclination for a particular art, that spirit of imitation which is as common to the ape as to the human species, and leads him mechanically to do what he sees done by others, without very well knowing to what purpose. The world is full of artificers, and particularly of artists, who have no natural talents for the arts they profess, to which they have been trained from their infancy, either from motives of convenience, or from some apparent zeal which had operated as well in favour of any other art, had the same opportunities offered of seeing it exercised. One youth hears the beat of a drum, and conceives himself born to be a general ; another sees the masons at work, and immediately forms the design of being an architect. Every one is tempted to make choice of that profession which offers itself, and appears to be held in esteem.

I knew

I knew an instance in a foot-boy, who from seeing his master design and paint pictures, took it into his head to be a limner and history painter. From the moment he formed this resolution, he took up the crayon, which he laid down only to assume the pencil, and this he will never quit while he lives. Without rules, without instructions, he set himself down to design every thing that fell in his way. Three whole years did he sit poring over his wretched dawblings, getting nothing but his labour for his pains, and yet without being disgusted at the little progress his mediocrity of talents permitted him to make. I remember to have seen him, for six months together in a very hot summer, sitting, or rather nailed to his chair, in a little anti-chamber open to the south, before a globe, of which he was attempting to draw the figure on canvass; beginning, rubbing out, and beginning again with the most invincible obstinacy, till at last he hit off the rotundity of the sphere to his satisfaction.

By the directions of an artist and the patronage of his master, he at length so far succeeded as to throw off his livery, and live by the pencil. Perseverance supplied the want of talents to a certain degree; having attained this,

he could never go farther. The spirit of emulation and resolution of this honest lad are commendable : he will ever be esteemed for his assiduity, fidelity and good behaviour ; but he will never rise in his profession higher than to the merit of a sign-painter. Who is there that has not been misled by his inclinations, and mistaken them for real abilities ? There is a considerable difference between being pleased with any occupation, and being capable of it. It requires much nicer observation than is generally imagined, to ascertain the taste and genius of children ; their casual inclinations display themselves oftner than their innate dispositions, and we judge from the first, for want of knowing how to study the last. I wish some judicious hand would give us a treatise on the art of studying children : an art of the greatest importance to be acquainted with, tho' fathers and preceptors know not as yet even its simple elements.

But, perhaps we here make the choice of our employment of too great consequence. As it relates only to some handicraft business, Emilius need not hesitate, he hath already served half his apprenticeship in the exercises to which he has been accustomed. He is ready to turn his hand to whatever you may require of him : he knows how to handle the spade and the hoe,

to

to make use of the mallet, the plane, and the file; the tools of all kinds of workmen are familiar to him. All that he needs farther is to acquire the same dexterity and facility, in the use of them, as a good artist in that peculiar branch to which he may apply. To this end, also, he hath a great advantage above most other children; in the agility of his body and the suppleness of his limbs, by means of which he can throw himself into any attitude, and continue any kind of exercise for a long time without tiring. Add to this that his senses are acute and experienced; and all the mechanism of the arts already known to him. To turn the work out of his hands like a master, he requires nothing but practice; and practice is to be gained only by time. All that we have to do therefore, is to determine what kind of mechanic employment we shall bestow so much time on, as to make ourselves expert in the exercise of it.

Let every man apply himself to one that is becoming his sex, and age. A close and sedentary profession, which enervates the body, will neither please nor be proper for youth. No one ever yet naturally aspired to be a taylor; artificial motives are required to induce our sex, for whom such business was never designed,

to embrace so effeminate an employment *. The sword and the needle are not made for the same hands. Were I a sovereign, I would permit none but women, or maimed and deformed persons, to follow any such kind of trade. On the supposition that eunuchs are necessary, I think the Turks very great fools for making them on purpose. Why do not they content themselves with such as are impotent by nature ; selecting them from that herd of dispirited, cowardly mortals, whose mutilated hearts render them unfit for the more manly offices of life : society hath a use for all others. Every feeble, timid and delicate male is condemned by his constitution to a sedentary life ; he is formed to live among the females ; or at least after their manner. Let such be early initiated into the mysteries of the taylor, the mantua-maker, and other professions of the like nature ; and if it be absolutely necessary to have real eunuchs, let those only be made such, who dishonour their sex by their voluntary application to such unbecoming employments. Their very choice sufficiently indicates the error of nature ; in correcting it therefore, either one way or the other, you can do no harm.

* There were no taylor's among the ancients, the cloaths of the men being made at home, by the women of the family.

I prohibit my pupil following an unhealthy business, but not those which are laborious or even dangerous. The latter exercise at once both his strength and his courage; they are proper for the men only; the women making no pretensions to them: how comes it then, the men are not ashamed to incroach on those properly exercised by the women?

*Luclantur pauca, comedunt collipha pauca
Vos lanam trahitis, calathisque peracta refertis.
Vellera*.*

In Italy no women are to be seen serving in the shops, which gives the streets a very dull and heavy appearance to those who have been accustomed to the gay and lively figure they make in France and England. When I see your haberdashers and man-milliners, measuring out lace, ribbons and gauze to the ladies, I cannot help thinking such elegant commodities appear very ridiculous in those clumsy fists, which would be with greater propriety employed in blowing a smith's bellows, or at the labours of the anvil. I should think that in such countries, the women ought by way of reprisals to turn sword-cutlers and gun-smiths. Let each sex manufacture and vend the arms peculiar to

* Juven. Sat. 2.

itself. To understand them well, it is requisite we should know how to employ them.

I would have a young man learn to exert a strong arm; to handle the axe and the saw; to square a piece of unhewn timber, to mount the roof of a house, to lay on the ridge, and to fit the joists and scantlings. Would it be more ridiculous in him while thus employed, to call out to his sister to come and assist him in his labour, than for her to bid him sit down to her needle-work?

I perceive I have already said too much for my polite and delicate cotemporaries; but I sometimes permit myself to be hurried away by the force of my own arguments. Thus far however is certain, that if any man whatever be ashamed of being seen to handle a plane, or wear a leather apron in public, he is only a slave to prejudice, one that would be ashamed of the most commendable actions, if they were ridiculed as unfashionable. We may give up nevertheless to the prepossessions of parents, whatever be not injurious to the understanding of the child. It is not necessary to exercise indiscriminately such professions as are useful, merely to do honour to them all; it is sufficient not to hold any one in less esteem than
it

it deserves. When we are at liberty to make our choice, and have no other motives to determine us, why may we not consult our own inclination and convenience, in choosing among professions of the same rank? The manufacture of hard-ware is useful, perhaps the most useful of all others; and yet, without some particular reason for it, I should not make your son a brazier or a blacksmith; I should not like to see him, at the forge, resemble the figure of a Cyclops. Neither would I make him a mason or bricklayer, and still much less a shoe-maker. Somebody doubtless must be of those trades; but he who can make choice of which he pleases, ought to have some regard to cleanliness and neatness: these do not depend on caprice, but affect our senses. Add to this, I should not like any of those stupid professions, in the exercise of which the workmen need neither industry nor ingenuity; but like mere machines, employ their hands constantly in the same manner. Such are cloth and stocking weavers, stone-sawyers, and the like. To what purpose should a man of any understanding be put to such trades; wherein the workman and his engine, are only one machine moving another?

All things duly considered, the trade I should like best my pupil should have a taste for, is
that

that of a joiner. This is neat, useful, and may be carried on within doors : it is sufficiently laborious to keep the body in exercise, and requires both diligence and dexterity : at the same time taste and elegance are not excluded from being displayed on the form and contrivance of the work.

If it should so happen, indeed, that your pupil has a natural turn for the speculative sciences, I should not blame you for teaching him a mechanic art conformable to his inclinations ; let him learn, for example, to design and construct mathematical instruments, quadrants, telescopes and the like.

When Emilius learns a trade, I also will learn it with him ; for I am convinced he will never learn, as should be, what we do not learn together. We will, therefore, both serve an apprenticeship ; not affecting to be treated as gentlemen, but as real apprentices, who are not trifling with a profession : Nay, why should we not be so in reality ? Czar Peter worked as a common ship-carpenter in the yard, and served as a drummer in his own troops : do you think that prince was not your equal, at least, either in birth or merit ? The reader will observe. I do not ask Emilius this question, but
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put it to every one, of whatever rank he may happen to be.

Unfortunately we cannot spend all our time at the work-bench; as we not only apprentice ourselves to the profession of a joiner, but to that of a man; the latter of which is by much the most tedious and difficult to learn. What then shall we do? Shall we hire a master-joiner, for an hour in a day, as we do the dancing-master? No. That would not be making ourselves his apprentices, but his scholars; and our ambition is not so much to learn the trade, as to raise ourselves to the condition of a joiner. I am therefore of opinion that we should go once or twice a week, at least, and spend the whole day at his shop; that we should rise at his hour in the morning, that we should be at our work before him, that we should eat at his table, work according to his orders, and, after having had the honour of supping with his family, return, if we pleased, to sleep on our own hard mattrasses. Thus you see how we might learn several trades at once, and exercise ourselves with manual labour, without neglecting our other accomplishments.

Be simple in well-doing. Let us not encourage vanity by the means we are taking
to

to destroy it. To take a pride in having overcome prejudice, is to submit to it. It is said, that from an ancient custom peculiar to the Ottoman race, the grand signior is obliged to practise some mechanical employment, and every one knows the superior merit of such workmanship : A prince can turn nothing out of his hands but a master-piece. These curious productions of his ingenuity he distributes about magnificently to the grandees of the court, and the work is paid for according to the quality of the workman. The real evil of this custom is not in the pretended imposition of it, against which some have so loudly exclaimed. This, on the contrary, is a benefit. For in thus obliging the bashaws and other petty tyrants of his empire to divide with him the spoils of the people, the prince is excused from doing it directly himself. This is a necessary relief to despotism, without which that horrible mode of government could not possibly subsist.

The real inconvenience of such a custom lies in the idea it gives the poor wretch of his princely merit. Like Midas, he sees every thing he touches changed into gold ; but perceives not the long ears sprouting out and exposing the ass. To preserve Emilius from being exposed in the like manner, we shall not give him

him any such valuable talent; the price of his labour shall not depend on the workman but on the work. We shall never suffer him to judge of the merit of his workmanship, but by comparing it with that of the best artisans. Of any thing that is well executed, we may say to him, *this is well made*; but it will be wrong to add, *who made it*? And if he should ever himself add, with an air of triumph and satisfaction, *it was I that made it*, it will be requisite to answer coldly, *whether you, or any body else, it is no matter; the work is very well done.*

Let every careful and well-meaning mother guard against the impositions, to which she may be liable in respect to the improvement of her child. If her son pretends to much knowledge, let her distrust every thing he affects to know: if he has the misfortune to be rich, and to be educated at Paris, he is undone. So long as he is in the midst of able artists he will be possessed of all their talents; but, when he is at a distance from them, he will have none at all. At Paris, a man who is rich knows every thing: there is no body ignorant there that is not poor. That capital is full of pretended connoisseurs, and superficial judges, of both sexes. I know but three honourable exceptions amongst the men, though there may be more. But I know
not

not of one among the women, and I much doubt that there is really any. In general a name is acquired in the arts as in the law, we may become artists and judge of artists, as readily as take up a degree in the civil law and become a magistrate.

If, therefore, it should ever become fashionable to be master of some mechanic art, your children would soon be expert at it, without taking the trouble to learn: They would pass masters of arts, like the counsellors of Zurich. I will admit of no mere ceremonies of this kind with Emilius; he shall make no appearances, but always possess the reality. He shall not talk of what he knows, but continue to improve himself in silence. He shall be always employed about a master-piece, without ever setting up for a master, and be known for a workman only by his labour, and not by what he professes.

If I have hitherto made myself understood, the reader will perceive that, while I have accustomed my pupil to corporeal exercise and manual labour, I have given him insensibly a taste for reflection and meditation; in order to counterballance that indolence which would be the natural result of his indifference for the opinions

nions of mankind and the tranquillity of his passions. It is necessary that he work like a peasant and think like a philosopher, lest he become as idle as a savage. The great secret of education is, to make the exercises of the body and the mind serve as a relaxation to each other.

Let us beware, however, of anticipating those instructions which require a riper judgement. Emilius will not be long a workman before he becomes sensible in himself of that inequality of conditions which he at first barely perceived. Hence, proceeding on the maxims I have laid down, he will be disposed in turn, to examine me. In receiving every thing from me, and seeing himself so little removed from a state of poverty, he will be curious to know wherefore I appear to be so rich. Taking me unprovided on this head, he may put some very knotty questions. *You are rich, he might say, you have told me so, and I see it. But a rich man owes his labours to society in his quality as man; and of what public utility are yours?* What answer a polite tutor might make to such a question I know not. He might probably be ridiculous enough to talk to him of the nature and importance of his services in taking care of his education.

tion. As for me, the joiner's workshop affords me an apology; I might, therefore, put off the question thus. *A very pertinent query, Emilius; and I promise to answer it, on my part, when you can make a satisfactory reply to it on your own. In the mean time, I shall take care to give my superfluity to you and the poor, and to make a table or a bench every week, that I may not be quite useless to the public.*

Thus are we returned again to ourselves. Behold my pupil, just ready to throw off a state of infancy, recur again to himself, and perceive more than ever that necessity he lies under to circumstances and things. After having set out with the exercise of his body and its organs, we proceeded to that of his genius and understanding, and have at length united the use of his limbs with that of his faculties. We have succeeded in the formation of an active, thinking being; to complete the man we have nothing more to do than to render him affectionate and susceptible; that is to say, to perfect his reason by sentiment. But before we enter upon this new disposition of things, let us take a retrospect of that we are about to leave, and trace, as exactly as possibly, how far we have proceeded. Our pupil had at first only sensations, at present he has ideas; he once did nothing
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but perceive, he can now form a judgment of things. It is from the comparison made between several successive or simultaneous sensations, and the judgment formed thereon, that a kind of complex or mixt sensation arises, which I call an idea.

The peculiar manner in which we form ideas, is that which constitutes the genius and character of the mind. To form our ideas of things on their actual relations only, betokens a solid understanding; whereas, to be contented with their apparent relations, betrays a superficial one. To conceive these relations as they really exist, displays a right judgment; to conceive mistaken notions of them, denotes a wrong one. Those who see imaginary relations, that have neither reality nor appearance, are madmen, while those who make no comparison between them are idiots. The less or greater aptitude to compare these ideas and discover such relations, is what constitutes a greater or less degree of genius and understanding.

Simple ideas are only the result of comparative sensations. A judgment is to be formed from simple as well as from complex sensations; and this I call a simple idea. In judging of
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our sensations, the judgment is merely passive; it deduces only the perception of what is immediately perceived. But in the ideas arising from those sensations, the judgment is active; it collects, compares and determines those relations which the senses could not. This is all the difference, but this is very considerable. Nature never deceives us; we are always deceived by ourselves.

A child, eight years old, hath some freezing milk set before him. He puts the spoon up to his mouth without knowing what it is, and no sooner doth the ice touch his lips than he cries out *he is burnt*. He feels a very acute sensation, and knowing none more sharp and painful than that of heat, he imagines that to be the cause. He is nevertheless mistaken; the sudden cold may hurt, but it does not burn him, nor are the sensations of heat and cold alike, those who are more accustomed to both never confounding them together. It is not the sensation, therefore, that deceives him, but the judgment he forms of it.

We are liable to the same kind of deception the first time we see a mirrour, or make use of any optical machine; when we go into a vault in the depth of winter or in the height of summer;

mer; when we put a very warm or cold hand into water of a middle temperature; or when we hold a round ball between the finger and thumb of each hand held crosswise. Should we content ourselves, in any of these cases, with declaring simply what we perceive or feel, the judgment would be merely passive; but when we judge of the thing itself by its appearance, the judgment is active, it compares, and reasons on, those relations which are not perceived, and thence we become liable to deception. It is from experience only we learn to prevent, or correct such errors.

Shew your pupil in the night the clouds passing over the moon, and he will at first think the moon moves the contrary way, and that the clouds stand still. He will conclude so from a precipitate induction, because he is more accustomed to see little objects move than great ones, and the clouds appear to him much bigger than the moon, of whose distance he cannot judge. When standing still in a ship in full sail, he views the shore at a small distance, he falls into a contrary error; the trees and houses on the beach appearing to move, because not perceiving his own motion he conceives the ship and the sea as one immoveable object, of which the less objects on shore are only a part.

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The first time a child sees a stick plunged half-way into the water, he sees it broken; he is not deceived by his sensation, which is a true one, and would be so where we even ignorant of the cause of this phenomenon. If you ask him, therefore, what he sees, he will tell you a broken stick, and it is very true, for it is very certain such is the object of his perception. But if deceived by his judgment, he should go farther, and after having affirmed that he sees a broken stick, maintain that what he sees is actually such, or that the stick so placed in the water is really broken, he would then maintain a falsehood. And why so? Because then his judgment becomes active, he judges not from immediate inspection, but rational deduction, in affirming what he does not perceive, viz. that the conception suggested by one sense would be confirmed by another.

All our mistakes thus arising from error in judgment, it is clear that, if we were under no necessity of judging, we should have no occasion to learn any thing; we should never be liable to be deceived, and should be much happier in our ignorance than we can be in our knowledge. We do not deny that the learned know a thousand things to be true, of which the ignorant will never know any thing. Are the

the learned, therefore, nearer the truth in general? Quite the contrary; the more they advance, the farther off they find themselves; because the vanity of judging of things making greater progress than our abilities to judge, we form an hundred erroneous conclusions for one that is just. Nothing is more evident than that the learned societies of Europe are public schools of falsehood; and it is very certain that the academy of sciences have adopted more errors than are to be found among the whole nation of Hurons.

Since our errors thus increase with our knowledge, the only method to avoid error is to remain in ignorance. So long as you suspend your judgment, you will not be deceived. This lesson is inculcated by nature as well as authorised by reason. If we except a very few of those striking relations, which things immediately bear to ourselves, we have naturally a very great indifference for all the rest. A savage will not step a foot out his way to view the mechanism of the finest machine, or the most astonishing phenomenon of electricity. *What is it to me?* is a phrase the most familiar with the ignorant, and the most proper for the learned.

Unhappily, however, this phrase is now useless. Every thing is something to us, since we are become dependent on all things; and our curiosity necessarily extends with our desires. For this reason I attribute great curiosity to a philosopher, and none at all to a savage. The latter stands in need of no body and the former of every one, and particularly of numerous admirers.

Will it be said that I here deviate from nature? I deny it. Natural maxims, it is true, are founded on necessity and not opinion; but our necessities vary with our situations. There is a great deal of difference between the natural man in a state of solitude, and the natural man in a state of society. Emilius is not a savage, destined to prowl in the woods, but to inhabit towns and cities. It is requisite for him, therefore, to know how to manage his fellow-citizens, and to live among, if not like, them.

Amidst the variety of connections and dependencies of such a state, he will be under a necessity of forming various judgments concerning them; let us instruct him, therefore, to judge of them aright.

The best way to effect this, is that which tends to reduce our experience to bare matters of fact, and enable us even to proceed, though wanting such experience, without falling into error. Hence it follows that, after we have long accustomed ourselves to explain and confirm the evidence of one sense by another, we should further learn to verify the testimony of each sense by itself, without having recourse to the others; by which means every sensation will stand in the place of an idea, and that idea will be always conformable to truth. Such are the acquirements which I have pointed out for this third stage of human life.

This manner of proceeding, I own, requires a degree of patience and circumspection of which few tutors are capable; and without which the pupil will never learn to judge properly. If, for example, when the latter is deceived in the appearance of the broken stick, you are in haste to convince him of his error, by precipitately taking it out of the water, you may undeceive him, it is true; but what will you teach him by it? Nothing but what he would soon have as well learned of himself. This, therefore, is not the thing you are to do. The point aimed at is less to teach him what is actually and particularly true, than to teach him

how to discover the truth in general, or at any other time. To instruct him properly on this occasion therefore, you should not undeceive him so soon. Let Emilius and his tutor serve for your example.

In the first place, I suppose that a child educated in the ordinary manner, on being asked, if the stick be broken, will readily answer in the affirmative. I very much doubt, however, if Emilius will be so ready to determine it. As he feels no necessity either to be or to appear knowing, he is in no haste to judge of the matter: his judgment of things is founded on evidence, and he who so well knows how liable we are to deception in the objects of sight, is very far from thinking the evidence in the present case sufficient. Add to this, that knowing from experience that the most frivolous questions I put to him have always some material object, tho' not immediately perceived, he is not used to reply carelessly and without thinking. On the contrary, he is suspicious and attentive, examining such questions very carefully before he ventures to answer them. Hence he never makes me a reply that he is not well satisfied with himself, and it is no easy matter to satisfy him in this particular. In a word, neither he nor I pique ourselves in knowing the truth of things, but only
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in not falling into error. We should be much more ashamed of sitting down satisfied with an insufficient reason for a thing, than of our incapacity to find any reason for it at all. *I don't know*, is an answer so satisfactory to both, and which we repeat so often, that it now costs us nothing. But, whether such an absurd affirmative should escape, or he should avoid it by our convenient negative *I don't know*, my reply to him would be still the same; our way should be to look and examine.

The stick, half immersed in water, stands, we will suppose, in a vertical position: to know whether it be really broken as it appears, we have many things to do before we take it out of the water, or even touch it with the hand.

In the first place, we should move round the stick, and in so doing, we should see the apparent fracture turn with us; the eye appearing to occasion the change; but it is well known our looks cannot alter the form of the stick.

Secondly, we should look down it from end to end, in which case we should not see it broken or crooked. But can our eye have reunited or straitened it?

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Thirdly,

Thirdly, I would give the water an undulating motion, when we should see the apparent fracture take different sides, the stick appearing to bend backwards and forwards with the motion of the water. Now can we think the motion given to the water sufficient to break, soften, or bend the stick?

Fourthly, we take and pour out the water; by doing which we see the stick become gradually whole and strait in proportion as the water decreases. Can any thing farther be required, to explain the nature of this fact and lead us to the discovery of the refraction? It is not true, therefore, that the sight deceives us; since we have no need to use any other sense, to rectify those errors we attribute to it.

But suppose a child so great a blockhead, as not to perceive the result of these experiments; in such a case it will be proper to call in the touch to the assistance of the sight. Instead, however, of taking the stick out of the water, let it remain some time in the same situation, and let the child carry his hand down it from the top to the bottom, by doing which he will find there is no angle; the stick is not bent or broken.

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You will tell me perhaps, this is not simply forming a judgment of things, but reasoning on them in form. It is very true; but don't you see plainly, that as soon as we arrive at ideas, to form a judgment of any thing is to reason upon it?

The consciousness of a sensation is a proposition, an opinion; and as soon as we compare one sensation with another we reason. The arts of judging and of reasoning are one and the same.

Emilius can never learn dioptrics, if I cannot teach it him by means of this stick. He shall not, to this end, dissect insects, or count the spots in the sun; he shall not even know the use of microscopes and telescopes. More polite and learned pupils may possibly laugh at his ignorance; for before he knows how to make use of these things, I purpose that he shall invent them; and this you doubt if he will compass so soon.

You see here the spirit that governs my system. If a child holding a little ball between the fingers cross-wise, imagines he holds two, I would not permit him to look, before he had otherwise convinced himself that he held but one.

These explanations I imagine will suffice, to denote precisely the progress of my pupil's understanding, and the route he hath taken. But you are alarmed, perhaps at the multitude of objects which have been presented him. You are afraid his understanding should be depressed or bewildered by such a variety of knowledge. On the contrary, however, I have taught him to be ignorant of many more things than he knows. I have opened for him a way to science, smooth and easy indeed, but long, extensive and tedious. I have instructed him at his first setting out, that he might know the entrance; but I shall never permit him to go very far.

Obliged to learn of himself, he makes use of his own reason and not that of others; for to give no influence to prepossession, no weight should be given to authority; and it is certain that our errors arise less from ourselves than from others. From this continual exercise of the understanding will result a vigour of mind, like to that which is acquired by the body from constant labour and fatigue. Another advantage is, that we advance in knowledge only in proportion to our capacity of digesting it. The mind may be overloaded as well as the body. But when the understanding makes every thing perfectly

perfectly clear and familiar, before it commits it to the memory, whatever it deduces thence afterwards is properly its own. Whereas in over-charging the mind with the remembrance of a heap of confused ideas, we expose ourselves to the inconvenience of never recollecting any thing that can properly be called our own.

Emilius has but little knowledge; but what he has is truly his own; he knows nothing by halves. Among the few things he knows and with which he is well acquainted, the most important is, that there are many things he is now ignorant of, which he may one day know; that there are many more which others know and he will never be acquainted with; and that there is an infinity of others which neither he nor any body else will ever know. He possesses an universal capacity, not in point of actual knowledge, but in the faculties of acquiring it; an open, intelligent genius, adapted to every thing, and, as Montaigne says, if not instructed, capable of receiving instruction. It is sufficient for me that he knows how to discover the utility of his actions, and the reason for his opinions. Once again, I say, my object is not to furnish his mind with science, but to teach him the method of acquiring it when he has occasion for it; to instruct him how to hold it in estimation,

mation, and to inspire him, above all, with a love for truth. By this method, indeed, we make no great advances ; but then we never take an useless step, nor are we obliged to turn back again.

Emilius is acquainted with no other science than that which is merely physical. He knows not even the name of history, nor what is meant by metaphysics and morality. He hath studied the essential relations between men and things, but no moral relations between man and man. He is ill qualified to generalise his ideas, or form abstract notions of things ; contenting himself with observing the general qualities of certain bodies, without reasoning on those qualities themselves. He has a notion of abstract space, by the help of geometrical figures ; and of abstract quantity, by means of the signs in algebra. Those figures and signs, however, are the support of those abstractions, on which he rests without seeking any farther. He does not endeavour to find out the essence of things, or what they are in their own nature ; but only their relations, and particularly those in which he is interested. He holds nothing external in estimation, but from its relation to himself ; but then the degree of this estimation is very just and exact. The caprice
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of custom, or general agreement, stamp no value on any thing with him. He holds that in the highest estimation which is the most useful; and, never departing from this method of estimating the value of things, pays no regard to fancy or prepossession. Emilius is laborious, temperate, patient, resolute and bold. His imagination never exaggerates danger; he is susceptible of few evils; and knows how to suffer with patience, because he has never learnt to contend against destiny. With respect to death, he is hardly sensible what it is; but, accustomed to yield without resistance to necessity, when it is his lot to die, he will submit to his fate without murmur or complaint.

This is the utmost that our nature will permit in that dreadful moment. To live independent and unattached to life by human connections, is the best way to learn to die.

In a word, Emilius is virtuous in every thing relating to himself. To possess the social virtues also, he only requires to be made acquainted with those relations that give rise to them; he only wants that information, which his mind is already formed to receive.

At present, he considers himself as entirely unconnected with others. He requires nothing of any one, and thinks no one hath a right to require any thing of him. He stands alone and independent in the midst of society. Indeed his pretensions to independency are better founded than those of any other; as he is in himself every thing man is capable of being, at his age. He lies under no errors but those which are inevitable; he has no vices but such as no mortal was ever free from. He hath an healthy constitution, agility of body; perspicuity of mind, and a dispassionate heart. Self-love, the first and most natural of all the passions, as yet hardly exerts itself. Without disturbing the repose of others, he has hitherto lived as content, happy and free as was possible for his nature. Do you think a youth, thus arrived at his fifteenth year, hath misemployed the term of his infancy?

END of the THIRD BOOK.



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E D U C A T I O N.

B O O K I V.


 O W rapid is our course upon this earth ! The first quarter of our life is fled before we are sensible of its use ; during the last, we are incapable of enjoyment. Three fourths of the intermediate space are consumed in sleep, labour, pain, constraint, and troubles of various kinds. Life is short, because of the little time we have for enjoyment, rather than from the real brevity of its duration. To what purpose were it to remove the hour of death farther from that of our birth, since life will always be too short when

when the intermediate time is ill employed? Man, if I may use the expression, is born twice; first to exist, and then to live; once as to species, and again with regard to sex. Those who consider women as imperfect men, are certainly mistaken, though exterior resemblance favours the opinion. Till the age of puberty, there is little apparent difference between the sexes, in children; countenance, shape, complexion, tone of voice, all are nearly alike; girls are children, so are boys; the same denomination serves for both. Those males, in whom the progress of the sex is impeded, preserve this conformity all their lives; they are always great children; and women, who never lose it, seem in many respects, to be little more.

But man in general was not born to remain in a state of childhood; nature marks the time when he emerges from infancy, and this critical moment, though short, is attended with a long train of consequences.

As the roaring of the sea precedes the tempest, so the murmuring of the passions portends this stormy revolution. The foaming surge foretells the approach of danger. A change of disposition, frequent starts, and a continual agitation

agitation of mind, render the pupil intractable. He becomes deaf to the voice of his preceptor ; like a lion in his fury, he disdains his guide, and will no longer submit to be governed.

These moral indications of a changing disposition are accompanied by a visible alteration in the person. His features assume a character ; the thin soft down upon his chin begins to gather strength. His voice is lost between hoarseness and squeaking : for, being neither man nor boy, he has the tone of neither. His eyes, those organs of the mind hitherto inexpressive, learn to speak ; animated with a lively flame, their looks, though more expressive, are yet pure and innocent ; but they have lost their primitive dullness and insipidity. He already feels their power of expression, he learns to cast them down and blush. He perceives his sensibility before he knows what he feels ; he is restless without knowing the cause of his disquietude.

Perhaps these symptoms may steal on slowly, and leave you time to guard against the danger ; but if his vivacity renders him too impatient ; if his transports become unruly ; if he is one moment exasperated, and the next softened ; if he sheds tears without cause ; if his pulse beats high, and his eye reddens when he approaches certain objects,

objects, which grow dangerous to his repose ; if he trembles at the touch of a female hand ; if he is uneasy and intimidated in the fair one's presence ; Ulysses, O sage Ulysses ! beware ! those passages which you endeavoured, with so much care, to close, are still wide open. The winds are already let loose ; quit the helm but a moment, and all is lost !

Here commences the second birth I was speaking of ; at this age man is truly born to live, and enters into full possession of the powers of human nature. Our care hitherto has been little more than childrens play : it now becomes of real importance. This *Æra*, where common education ends, is properly the time where ours should begin ; but in order to convey a proper idea of our plan, it will be necessary to take a retrospective view of a more early period.

Our passions are the principal instruments of our preservation ; therefore to endeavour to destroy them is equally vain and absurd ; it is to find fault with nature, to attempt to reform the works of God. Should the almighty require man to annihilate those passions which he had given him, he would not know his own mind, he would contradict himself ; but the Almighty never gave such a ridiculous command ; the heart of man has received no such injunction ;

tion; and whatever is required of him, is not made known to him by the mouth of another; God himself imprints it on his heart.

To suppress the passions, in my opinion, is almost as absurd as intirely to destroy them; whoever imagines this to have been my intention, has grossly mistaken my meaning.

But because it is in the nature of man to have passions, is it therefore rational to conclude, that all the passions which we feel within ourselves, and which we perceive in others, are natural? Their source indeed is natural, but that source is increased by a thousand adventitious streams; it is a great river continually augmenting, in which it would be very difficult to find one drop of the original spring. Our natural passions are extremely limited; they are however the instruments of our liberty, and tend to our preservation. Such passions as are prejudicial, and by which our reason is subdued, spring from some other source; nature does not give them to us, we adopt them to the prejudice of nature.

The source of our passions, the origin and chief of every other, that which alone is born with man, and never leaves him while he lives, is SELF-LOVE: this is the original passion,
prior

prior to every other, and of which, in one sense, all the rest are only modifications. In this sense they may be considered as natural. The greater part of these modifications proceed from adventitious causes, without which they would not exist; but these modifications are of no advantage to us; on the contrary, they are extremely detrimental; they change and counteract their first and principal object: in this case, men become unnatural, and act in contradiction to themselves.

True self-love is always right, and always consistent. Every Individual being especially charged with his own preservation, his first, and greatest anxiety is, and ought to be, to watch over it continually; and how can he do this if he does not make it his principal concern?

We must therefore love ourselves for our own preservation; consequently we love that which contributes towards it. Children are particularly attached to their nurses. Thus Romulus ought to have been attached to the wolf that gave him suck; for this attachment is at first merely physical. Whatever contributes to the welfare of an individual engages his affection, whatever is likely to destroy it, he will repel.

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This is merely instinct ; but what transforms instinct into sentiment, attachment into love, aversion into hatred, is a manifest intention either to injure or to serve us. We are not indeed over-solicitous concerning those inanimate beings, which are only capable of acting as they are influenced by others : but those from whose disposition and will we may expect good or evil, those in whom we perceive a power to serve us, inspire the same sentiments in us, with regard to themselves, which they discover towards us. We seek those who are able to be of use to us, but we love those who are actually willing to be so : we fly from those who have the power to injure us, but those who seem disposed to offend us, we hate.

The first sentiment of a child is to love himself, and the second, which may be deduced from the former, is to love those who are employed about him ; for in his present helpless state his knowledge of persons is founded on the assistance which he receives from them. His attachment to his nurse or his governess is merely habitual. He looks for them because they are necessary, and he finds them convenient ; but this is rather acquaintance than affection. It requires a much longer time to make him sensible that they are not only useful, but
desirous

desirous of serving him ; as he grows sensible of this, he begins to love them.

A child, therefore, is naturally inclined to benevolence, because he sees every body round him ready to give him assistance ; and from this constant observation he learns to think favourably of his species : but in proportion as he extends his connexions, his necessities, his active and passive dependencies, the idea of his relation to others, awakens and produces sentiments of duty and preference. The child then becomes imperious, jealous and vindictive. If you educate him to be submissive and obedient, not perceiving the use of your commands, he attributes them to a capricious design to torment him, and becomes mutinous. If, on the contrary, you generally comply with his humours, as soon as ever he meets with opposition he conceives a species of rebellion in every intention to oppose him, and revenges himself even upon the chairs and tables for disobeying his commands. Self-love, which regards our own personal good only, is contented when our real wants are supplied ; but self-interest, or that self-love which stands in competition with the good of others, cannot possibly be contented, because as it prefers ourselves to others, it expects that others should likewise give us the preference ;

preference ; which is impossible. Thus we see how the soft and affectionate passions arise from self-love, and the hateful and irascible ones from self-interest. That which renders man essentially good, is to have few wants, and seldom to compare himself with others ; that which renders him essentially wicked, is to have many wants, and to be frequently governed by opinion. Upon this principle it is easy to perceive that all the passions of men or children, may be so directed, as to produce good or evil. True it is, as we cannot always live in solitude, it will be difficult for us to continue uniformly good : this difficulty must necessarily increase in proportion to our connections ; and therefore the dangers of society render our care more indispensable, to prevent in the human heart the depravation which proceeds from increasing necessities.

The proper study of man is that of his connexions and dependencies. During his mere physical existence, he should study only his relation to things. This is the employment of his infancy ; when he begins to be sensible of his moral existence, his relation to mankind should then be the object of his contemplation ; this is the proper employment of his whole life,
beginning

beginning at the period to which we are now arrived.

As soon as man has need of a companion, he is no longer an unsocial being: his heart is no longer single. All his connexions with his species, all the affections of his soul are born with this sensation. His first passion soon ferments the other into being.

The peculiar tendency of instinct is indeterminate. One sex attracts the other; so far it is the operation of nature. Choice, preference, personal attachment; these are the produce of knowledge, prejudice, and custom. Time and experience are necessary to render us capable of affection: we love only after having judged, and there can be no preference without comparison. This judgment is formed unknown to ourselves, nevertheless it is real. True love, let men say what they please, will always be honoured by mankind; for however its extravagance may lead us astray, tho' it does not exclude every vicious quality from the heart, it supposes some estimable ones, without which it could not exist. That choice which we put in competition with reason is, in fact, the effect of reason. We have made love blind, because he has better eyes than ourselves, and sees things
which

which to us are imperceptible. To one who has no idea of merit and beauty, every woman must be alike, and the first he beholds will be the most amiable. Love is so far from being the child of nature, that he restrains and regulates her inclinations: under his influence, if we except the beloved object, each sex becomes indifferent to the other. The preference which we bestow we expect should be returned; love ought to be reciprocal. In order to be beloved we must render ourselves amiable, to be preferred we must render ourselves more amiable than another, more amiable than every other person; at least in the eyes of the beloved object. Hence we first regard our fellow-creatures, hence we first compare them with ourselves, and hence proceeds emulation, rivalry and jealousy. A heart overflowing with a new sensation, is glad to diffuse itself to its utmost extent; the want of a mistress soon produces the want of a friend; having experienced the pleasure of being beloved, we wish to be beloved by all the world, and this universal desire of preference must necessarily be productive of much discontent.

From the love of friendships proceed dissensions, envy and hatred. On the foundation of these various passions, I see opinion erect its immoveable throne; and senseless mortals,
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submitting to its empire, found their own existence on the judgment of each other.

Extend these ideas, and we shall see whence self-interest acquires that form which we suppose to be natural, and how self-love, ceasing to be a natural sentiment, becomes pride in great souls, in little souls vanity, and in all, is continually cherished at the expence of society. The seeds of these passions not having existence in the heart of an infant, they cannot grow spontaneously; we plant them there ourselves, and they never take root but by our own fault. In the heart of a youth, of a certain age, the case is very different; there they will take root in spite of us. It is time therefore to change our method.

Let us begin by making some important reflections, on that critical state of which we are now speaking. The step from childhood to the age of puberty is not so positively determined, as not to vary according to the temperament of individuals, and with regard to people according to climate. Every one knows the difference observable in this particular, between the hot and cold countries, and it is generally allowed, that warm constitutions arrive at the age of maturity soonest; but we may be

deceived as to the cause ; and may frequently attribute to a physical, what ought to be ascribed to a moral source, which is one of the most common mistakes in the philosophy of the present age. The instructions of nature are late and tedious, those of man are almost always premature. In the first case, the senses rouse the imagination ; in the second, the imagination awakens the senses, and gives them a too early activity which cannot fail to enervate individuals, and in time the species. That the age of puberty in both sexes is always more forward in a polished and enlightened people, than amongst the ignorant and savage, is a more general and certain observation *. Children have a singular sagacity

* In great towns, says Mr de Buffon, and amongst people in affluence, children accustomed to eat plentifully and upon succulent food, arrive soon at maturity ; in the country and amongst poor people, their food being less nourishing, they require at least three years more. Hist. Nat. T. 4. p. 238.

I admit the justice of the observation, but not of the cause assigned for it ; for in countries where the inhabitants live extremely well, and eat a vast deal, as in the Valais, and even in some of the mountainous provinces of Italy, the age of puberty in both sexes comes as late as in great cities, where to indulge their pride, they frequently eat sparingly. One is surprized to see amidst these mountains, boys as robust as men, with female voices and beardless chins ; and to find girls tall and perfectly formed, who have

sagacity in seeing through the affectation of decorum, the vices which it is intended to conceal. The refined language which we are pleased to dictate, our lectures on decency, the mysterious veil formally held before their eyes, are so many spurs to their curiosity. 'Tis evident from the effects, that by endeavouring to keep children in ignorance we really instruct them, and that of all the instructions they receive, this makes the greatest impression.

Experience will inform you, how greatly this ridiculous method accelerates the work of nature, and ruins the constitution. It is one of the principal causes of mankind's degenerating in great towns. The young folks early exhausted continue diminutive, feeble, ill-made, and grow old instead of robust; like the vine which is compelled to bear fruit in the spring, and droops and dies before autumn.

One must have lived in the midst of rustick simplicity, to be able to form any judgment to what age a happy ignorance may prolong the
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not the periodical distinction of their sex. This difference, I am of opinion, is owing to their simplicity of manners; the imagination remaining longer in tranquillity, is later before it ferments the blood, and accelerates the circulation.

innocence of children. 'Tis a pleasing sight, to behold the two sexes engaged in the harmless sports of childhood, tho' in the bloom of youth and beauty; and evincing, even by their familiarity, the purity of their pleasures. When these amiable young people arrive at a proper age for marriage, the husband and wife mutually sacrificing their first fruits, become dearer to each other. A race of healthy and robust children are the pledges of an unalterable union, and the happy consequence of their innocence in early life.

If the period when man becomes conscious of his sex, is as much determined by education as by nature; consequently this period may be accelerated or retarded: and if the body gains or loses solidity, in proportion as this progress is forwarded or delayed; it follows that the longer it is retarded, the stronger we grow. I am now speaking of mere physical effects; we shall soon perceive that there are other consequences.

By these reflexions I am enabled to solve this question, so frequently the subject of debate; Whether it would be proper to gratify the curiosity of children betimes, or to put them off with some little piece of modest deceit? In my opinion both should be avoided. First, as

we ourselves are the cause of this curiosity, we should endeavour to prevent it ; and secondly, when there is no necessity for resolving their questions, you are not obliged to deceive them. You had much better impose silence, than answer a child with a lie : he will not be surprized at such a command, if he has been used to submit in matters of indifference. In short, if you choose to reply, let your answer be plain, without mystery, and without embarrassment, and without a smile. There is much less danger in satisfying, than in exciting the curiosity of children.

Let your answers be always concise, serious and determined, without seeming to hesitate. It is needless to add that they should be strictly true ; one cannot teach children the danger of telling lies to men, without perceiving the greater danger of deceiving children. A single falsehood averred by the master to his pupil, will for ever destroy the fruits of education.

• A total ignorance of certain things, were perhaps the most to be wished ; but they should learn betimes what it is impossible always to conceal from them. Either their curiosity should not be at all excited, or it should be satisfied before the time of danger. Your conduct with

regard to your pupil, greatly depends on his particular situation ; the people by whom he is surrounded, and many other circumstances. It is of importance to leave nothing to chance, and if you are not positively certain, that you can keep him ignorant of the difference of sex till the age of sixteen, be careful to let him know it before the age of ten.

I cannot approve of speaking to children in a language too refined, nor of palpable circumlocution, only to avoid calling things by their proper names. Virtuous innocence knows no disguise ; but an imagination polluted by vice, renders the ear delicate, and obliges us to a continual refinement of expression. Mere words can be of no consequence ; lascivious ideas are what we should guard against.

Though modesty is natural to the human species, yet children have it not from nature. A sense of shame proceeds only from the knowledge of evil, and how can children who neither have, nor ought to have this knowledge, shew its effects ? To read them lectures on shame and decency, is to teach them that there are things shameful and immodest ; it is inspiring them with a secret desire of knowing these things. Sooner or later they arrive at

this knowledge, and the first spark which catches the imagination, is sure to set the passions in a flame. Whoever blushes is already culpable; real innocence can never be ashamed.

Children, though they have not the same desires with men, are, like them, liable to that uncleanness which offends the senses, and for that reason may receive the same lessons concerning decency. Let us, in this respect, imitate nature, who placing the organs of secret pleasure and those of disgusting necessity, in the same parts of the body, suggests to us the same attention at different ages, first by one idea, and then by another; to man by the idea of modesty, and to children by that of cleanliness.

I see but one certain method of preserving the innocence of children; namely that it be cherished and respected by those who surround them: otherwise the artifice and reserve with which they are treated will, sooner or later, infallibly be discovered. A smile, a glance, or a single gesture, is sufficient to discover to them all we intended to conceal, and effectually to betray our design of deceiving them. The delicacy of expression used by polite people in the
presence

presence of children, supposing a kind of knowledge which they should not have, is extremely injudicious ; but, in conversing with them, if you pay a proper regard to their innocence, you will naturally use those terms which are most proper. There is a certain simplicity of expression which is suitable and pleasing to innocence, and this I take to be the best method of diverting the dangerous curiosity of children. By speaking to them plainly of every thing, you leave them no room to suspect that there is any thing more to say. By uniting to indelicate words the disgusting ideas which they excite, you suppress the first fire of the imagination : you do not hinder them from pronouncing these words, and having these ideas : but you extinguish, unknown to themselves, the desire of recollecting them. And what a world of embarrassment do you avoid by thus expressing your ideas without circumlocution or disguise !

How are children made ? This, though an embarrassing question, may naturally be asked by a child, whose conduct and health, during his whole life, may possibly depend, in a great measure, on the answer. The shortest method which a mother can devise to extricate herself, without deceiving her son, is to impose silence : this might do well enough, if he had been, for

some time, accustomed to it, in questions about indifferent things, and that he suspected no mystery from this new command. But a mother seldom stops here. *This, says she, is the secret of married people; little boys should not be so curious.* In this manner she may indeed extricate herself; but let me tell her, the little boy, piqued at the appearance of contempt in her reply, rests not a moment till he learns the secret of married people, and he will not long remain in ignorance.

Permit me to relate a very different answer which I remember to have heard given to the same question, and which struck me the more as it proceeded from a woman as modest in her discourse as in her behaviour, but who was wise enough, for the advantage of her son, and for the sake of virtue, to disregard the pleasantry of fools. It happened, a little while before, that the child had voided a small stone, which tore the passage; but the pain being over was soon forgotten. *Mamma, says the boy, How are children made? Child, replied the mother, without hesitation, women make them in their water, as you did the stone, with such terrible pain that it sometimes costs them their lives.* —Let fools laugh and blockheads be offended; but

but let the wise recollect whether they have ever heard a more judicious and pertinent answer.

Instantly the idea of any thing mysterious is absorbed in that of a natural necessity already known to the child. The accessory ideas of pain and death cast a veil of sadness over the imagination and stifle curiosity: his thoughts center, not upon the cause, but the consequence of childbirth. The infirmities of human nature, images of disgust and horror, such will naturally arise from the explanation of this answer, if he has any inclination to be farther inquisitive. How can the inquietude of desire be produced by such a conversation? nevertheless we have not deviated from the truth, nor have we instead of instructing, deceived our pupil. Your children read, and thus acquire knowledge which otherwise they would not have obtained: if they study, the imagination catches fire even in the calm obscurity of the closet. If they mix with the world, they hear a strange jargon of words, they are struck with variety of examples; and being perfectly persuaded that they are men, every thing which men do in their presence they will endeavour to imitate; it being natural for them to model their actions by those of other people, when other people's judgment serves them as a law.

Servants who are their dependants, and who consequently have an interest in pleasing them, will make their court at the expence of their morals. A foolish, flirting governess, in the presence of a child of four years old, will express herself in terms which the most impudent woman would be ashamed of before a boy of fifteen. She soon forgets the words she has uttered, but they have made a lasting impression upon the child. Loose conversation is the harbinger of immoral actions. A vicious foot-boy will debauch the principles of a child, and the secrets of the one become security for those of the other.

A child properly educated, according to his age, knows no attachments but those of custom; he loves his sister as he loves his playthings, and his friend as his dog. He does not perceive himself to be of any sex or any species; man and woman are equally unknown to him, and he applies nothing to himself which they either say or do; he hardly sees or hears them; and pays no more regard to their discourse than to their example. He is not, by this method, led into an artificial error; it is the ignorance of nature. The time will come when the same nature will take care to instruct her pupil, and she

she will not, till then, enable him to profit by her instructions.

Such are my principles of education: a particular detail of rules is, at present, foreign to the subject, and the methods which I propose, with regard to other objects, may serve as examples in the present case.

If you mean to confine the growing passions within proper limits, prolong the time in which they are naturally displayed, that they may arrange themselves in due order. Thus you will do nothing more than suffer nature to dispose her own work. Your task would be easy if your pupil were alone; but every thing about him inflames his imagination. He is hurried away by the torrent of prejudice; in order to stop him, you must endeavour to carry him against the stream. The imagination should be governed by sentiment, and reason silence the voice of public opinion. Sensibility is the source of all the passions, and their bias is determined by the imagination. Every being who perceives his connexions, will naturally be affected when these connexions alter, and when he imagines, or thinks he imagines, others more suitable to his nature. The passions of finite beings, even of angels themselves, if they have any, are

H. 6 transformed.

transformed into vices, by these errors of the imagination; for they must necessarily be acquainted with the nature of all beings before they can know what connexions are most suitable to their own.

All human wisdom, as far as it concerns the use of the passions, consists first, in perceiving the true relations of man, both with regard to the species and to the individual; and secondly, in regulating the different affections of the mind according to these relations.

But it may be asked, whether man has it in his power to regulate his affections according to this or that particular relation? Most certainly he has, if it be in his power to direct his imagination to any particular object, or to give it this or that particular turn. Beside, the present question does not so much regard man's power over himself, as what may possibly be done with our pupil, by a proper choice of the circumstances in which he is placed.

Whilst his sensibility is confined merely to himself, there can be nothing moral in his actions: it is only when it begins to extend to others that he acquires the perception and idea of good and evil, which constitutes him really
man,

man, and an integral part of his species ; to this period therefore let us confine our observations. Possibly it may be attended with some difficulty, because we shall be obliged to reject the examples which are before our eyes, and go in search of others, where the faculties of the mind gradually display themselves in their natural order.

A child educated in the accomplishments of the polite world, who waits only for the power of putting in practice the premature instructions he has received, never mistakes the moment when that power begins. But, instead of waiting for that period, accelerates its progress ; he knows what will be the object of his desires, long before they exist. Nature, when she makes him a man, has nothing more to teach him. He was a man in idea long before he became one in effect.

The real progress of nature is gradual and slow ; the motion of the blood quickens ; the spirits begin to ferment, and the constitution forms by slow and more certain degrees. The sagacious artist, who directs the machine, takes care that each part shall be perfect before it is put in motion ; a long inquietude precedes our first desires, a long ignorance diverts them
various

various ways, and we desire we know not what: the blood flows quick, the pulse beats high, and a super-abundance of life seems impatient to extend its limits. The eye acquires vivacity, and inquisitively explores all other beings; we begin to have an interest in those by whom we are surrounded; we begin to perceive that we were not made to live alone. Thus the heart begins to open to human affections, and becomes capable of attachment.

The first sentiment of which a youth, carefully educated, is susceptible, is not love, but friendship. The first act of his youthful imagination, is to inform him that there are beings similar to himself, and the species affects him before the sex. Another advantage arising from prolonging his innocence is, that it enables us, by means of his growing sensibility, to sow the first seeds of humanity in his heart; an advantage of infinite importance, because it is the only time of his life when this care will be attended with equal success.

I have always remarked, that young people, early corrupted, and addicted to debauchery, are inhuman and cruel; the heat of their constitution renders them impatient, vindictive, and impetuous: their imagination, engrossed by one
particular

particular object, rejects every other ; they have neither tenderness nor pity, and would sacrifice father, mother, and all the world, to the most trifling gratification. On the contrary, a youth educated in simplicity and innocence, is inclined to the tender passions by the first impulse of nature. His sympathetic heart feels the sufferings of his fellow-creatures ; it leaps with joy at the unexpected sight of a beloved companion, his arms fly open to embrace him with ardor, and his eyes overflow with gladness. He is sensible of shame for giving displeasure, of regret for having offended. If the natural warmth of his constitution renders him hasty and passionate, you will immediately perceive the extream goodness of his heart, in the effusion of his repentance ; he weeps, he sighs over the wound he has given ; he would gladly compensate with his own blood, that which he had shed ; his anger subsides, and his pride is humbled in the sense of his fault. If he is offended, one single word of apology disarms him, though in the height of resentment ; he pardons the faults of others as willingly as he makes reparation for his own. Youth is not the age of revenge and hatred ; on the contrary, it is that of compassion, clemency and generosity. I never, and I fear no contradiction from experience, that a youth not meanly bred, who has preserved

preserved his innocence to the age of twenty, is at that period the most generous, the best, the most affectionate, and the most amiable of mankind. Strange doctrine! cries the reader, I never heard of it before.—Very possible: your philosophers, educated in the corrupt notions of a college, know nothing of the matter.

Man is rendered sociable by his weakness; it is our common misery which inclines our heart to humanity. Every attachment is a sign of insufficiency: if we stood in no need of assistance, we should hardly think of uniting ourselves to each other, so that human felicity, uncertain as it is, proceeds from our infirmities. A Being absolutely happy, must be alone and independent: God only enjoys absolute happiness; but of that happiness who can have any idea? If an imperfect Being could be supposed to have an independent existence, what, according to our ideas, would be his enjoyment? In being alone he would be miserable. He who wants nothing will love nothing, and I cannot conceive that he who loves nothing can be happy.

Hence it follows, that our attachment to our fellow-creatures is rather owing to our sympathising with their pains, than with their
their

their pleasures; for in the first we more evidently perceive the identity of our nature, and a security for their attachment to us. If our common necessities unite us from a principle of interest, our common miseries unite us by affection. The sight of a happy man is more apt to inspire envy than love; we readily accuse him of usurping a privilege to which he has no exclusive right, and our self-love suffers in the idea, that he has no need of our assistance. But who does not bemoan the unhappy sufferer? who would not release him from his misfortunes, if it cost no more than a wish? It is easier to imagine ourselves in the situation of the wretched, than in that of the happy; because we perceive ourselves more nearly allied to the one, than to the other. Compassion is a grateful sensation, because, though we sympathize with the sufferer, we secretly rejoice that his pains are not our own. Envy, on the contrary, is painful, because so far from sympathizing in the happiness of others, we grudge them their enjoyments: the first seems to exempt us from the evil he suffers, and the latter to deprive us of the blessings he enjoys.

If you would encourage the first impulses of a growing sensibility in the heart of a young man, and incline his disposition towards virtue
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and benevolence, be careful not to sow the seeds of pride, vanity, and envy, by a false representation of human felicity ; let him remain unacquainted with the pomp of courts, the magnificence of palaces, and the charms of public entertainments ; let him not appear in polite circles and brilliant assemblies. Give him not a superficial view of society, till he is able to make a proper estimate of its intrinsic value. To shew him the world in general, before he knows something of man in particular, would be to corrupt instead of forming his mind ; to deceive instead of instructing him.

Men are not naturally opulent, courtiers, nobles or kings. We come into the world naked and poor ; we are all subject to the miseries of life, to grief, necessity, and evils of various kinds : in short, we are all condemned to die. Such is the true picture of man. Let us therefore begin by studying those things which are inseparable from human nature, that which most essentially constitutes humanity. At the age of sixteen we know what it is to suffer, for we ourselves have already suffered : but we are hardly sensible of the sufferings of other beings : to see without feeling them is not to know them, and, as I have frequently
said

said before, a child has no idea of what others feel; he knows no evils but his own: but when the first display of his faculties kindles the fire of his imagination, he begins to perceive that he does not exist independent of his fellow-creatures; he feels their complaints, and sympathises in their sorrow. At this time the tragical picture of our existence should excite in his heart, the first feelings of humanity.

If this period is not easily discovered in your children, whom may we blame for it? You instruct them so early in the language of sentiment, that they quickly learn to turn your own lessons against you, and leave you no method of judging when they begin really to feel what they say. As for my Emilius, he has hitherto neither felt, nor pretended to feel. Having no idea of love, he has never been heard to say, *I love you dearly*; he was never instructed *how to look* on entering into the sick chamber of his father, mother, or his governor; he was never shewn how to affect a sorrow which he did not feel; he feigns no tears at the death of his friends, for he knows not what death means. The insensibility of his heart is visible in his behaviour. Indifferent to all, except himself, like all other children, he is
sensible.

sensible of no attachment ; he differs from them only in this, that he does not play the cheat as they do, or pretend to any thing he does not feel.

Emilius, having bestowed little reflection on sensible beings, will be some time before he has any idea of suffering and death. Lamentation and cries will gradually begin to excite his compassion, he will turn away his eyes at the sight of blood, the convulsions of an expiring animal, will create in him a kind of agony before he is sensible whence these emotions proceed. Had he continued indeed in a state of barbarity, totally uncultivated, he would have known no such feelings ; if he had been farther instructed, he would have known their source : he has compared ideas too often to have no feelings, but not sufficiently to conceive what they are.

Hence proceeds compassion, the first relative sentiment which touches the human heart, according to the order of nature. A child before he can be sensible of pity, must know that there are beings like himself, who are capable of feeling the same pain which he has already experienced. In short, how should we feel compassion, if not by being transported out of ourselves,

ourselves, and uniting our own persons, in imagination, to that of the suffering animal? by quitting, if I may so say, our own being for his? We suffer only in proportion as we think he suffers: it is not in ourselves, but in him that we suffer: therefore our sensibility does not commence till the imagination warms and begins to carry us out of ourselves.

To excite and nourish this growing sensibility, to guide or follow it in its natural propensity, it will be necessary to throw such objects in the way of our young pupil as will most effectually dilate his heart, extend it to other beings, and separate him from himself; to hide carefully from his view those objects which, on the contrary, tend to contract the heart and compress the spring of human selfishness: in other terms, to inspire him with goodness, humanity, compassion, benevolence, and all the soft attractive passions which are so pleasing to mankind; and to stifle envy, hatred, and all those cruel and inhuman appetites, which, if I may be allowed the phrase, render sensibility not only null, but negative; becoming the torment of those who possess them.

The preceding reflections, I think, may be comprised in two or three distinct and obvious maxims.

FIRST MAXIM.

It is not in the power of the human heart to sympathise with those who are happier than ourselves, but with those only who are more miserable.

If there are any exceptions to this maxim, they are rather apparent than real. We do not sympathise with the rich or great to whom we are attached. Even in our most sincere attachment we only appropriate a part of their well-being. Sometimes we really love people in their misfortunes; but so long as they are in prosperity, they have no sincere friends, except such as are not dupes to appearances, and who rather pity than envy them, notwithstanding their condition.

We sympathise in the happiness of rural simplicity, because the pleasure of contemplating the felicity of the honest rustics is not embittered by envy. We find ourselves really interested in their pleasures; and why? Because we think it in our power to descend to their state of peace and innocence, and to enjoy the same happiness: it is a last resource which excites none but agreeable ideas, and of which our will alone is sufficient to put us in possession. We have a satisfaction in contemplating

templating this asylum, though we never intend to enjoy it.

Hence we may conclude that if we mean to inspire the heart of a youth with humanity, we are not to dazzle his eyes with the splendor of the rich and fortunate, but to display them such as they often are, gloomy and discontented, so that he may rather dread than envy their situation. Thus, having no temptation to follow the steps of other men in his pursuit of happiness, he will naturally strike out a path of his own.

SECOND MAXIM.

We pity in others those evils only, from which we think ourselves not exempt.

Non ignara mali, miseris succurrere disco.

What can be more beautiful, more affecting, and more true than this line !

Why have kings no compassion for their subjects ? Because they never intend to become men. Why are the rich so obdurate to the poor ? Because they are not afraid of poverty. Why are the lower class of people despised by the nobility ? Because the nobles are in no danger of becoming

ing Plebeians. Why are the Turks, in general, more humane, more hospitable than we are? Because their government being arbitrary, and consequently the fortune and grandeur of particulars precarious, they are not entirely out of the reach of poverty and distress *; he who is to-day the most powerful, may to-morrow be in the situation of the beggar he relieves. This reflexion which so frequently recurs in the oriental romances, makes them infinitely more affecting than all our dry morality.

Do not therefore accustom your pupil to look haughtily down upon the sufferings of the unfortunate, and the labour of the poor: he cannot be taught to pity them while he looks upon them as almost of a different species. Let him understand that the lot of those miserable wretches may possibly be his own; that he is by no means exempt from their misfortunes, and that a thousand inevitable events may plunge him into equal misery. Teach him to place no confidence in birth, health, or riches; shew him all the vicissitudes of fortune; point out to him the many frequent examples of people, who

* At present, indeed, the case is a little altered; rank becoming daily more fixed and durable among them, they grow accordingly more destitute of compassion.

from

from a situation more exalted than his, have fallen to the lowest degree of poverty and distress; whether by their own fault or not, is at present out of the question. What idea can he have of a fault? let us not attempt to disturb the natural gradation of his knowledge, nor to enlighten his understanding by means above his comprehension. It requires no great learning, or capacity, to conceive, that all the prudence of man cannot positively insure him the continuance of life for a single hour to come; cannot promise him that before night comes on he shall not *be gnashing his teeth* in acute pain; that a month hence he shall not be reduced to poverty; that in less than a year he shall not be chained to the oar of an Algerine galley. But these things are not to be coldly repeated like his catechism. He must see, he must feel the calamities of human nature. Terrify his imagination with the perils by which mankind are continually surrounded, so that, in listening to the animated description, he may press close to your bosom for fear of falling into the abyss. But, say you, this will make a coward of him. As to that, we shall consider it in the sequel. Let us first endeavour to teach him humanity; this, at present, is our principal concern.

THIRD MAXIM.

Our pity for the misfortunes of others, is not measured by the quantity of evil, but by the supposed sensibility of the sufferer.

We pity the wretched only in proportion, as we believe them sensible of their own wretchedness. The mere physical sensation of evil, is not so violent as it generally seems; it is the memory which makes us sensible of its continuance; it is the imagination extending it beyond the present moment which makes us really deserving of compassion. Probably this may be the reason why we are less affected at the sufferings of animals than of men. We do not pity a dray-horse when we see him in the stable, because we do not suppose that, in eating his hay, he remembers the inhumanity of his driver, or is apprehensive of the fatigues which he must undergo. In like manner, we never pity a sheep in its pasture, though we know it to be doomed to slaughter; because we suppose it to have no fore-knowledge of its destiny. By extending these ideas, we also become indifferent to the sufferings of our own species, and the rich excuse their conduct towards the poor, by supposing them too stupid to be sensible of their own misery. In general, I judge in what degree men estimate the happiness of their fellow

low-creatures, by their manner of treating them. It is quite natural that we should set little value on the felicity of beings we despise. Let us, therefore, not be surpris'd when politicians talk of the populace with so much disdain, nor that the generality of philosophers should affect to make man so wicked a being.

It is the populace which compose the bulk of mankind: those which are not in this class are so few in number, that they are hardly worth notice. Man is the same creature in every state; therefore that which is the most numerous, ought to be most respected. To a man capable of reflection, all civil distinctions are nothing: he observes the same passions, the same feelings, in the clown and the man of quality; the principal difference between them consists in the language they speak; in a little refinement of expression: but if there be any real distinction, it is certainly to the disadvantage of the least sincere. The common people appear as they really are, and they are not amiable: if those in high-life were equally undisguis'd, their appearance would make us shudder with horror.

There is, say our philosophers, an equal allotment of happiness and misery to every rank

of men; a maxim as dangerous as it is absurd. If all mankind are equally happy, it would be ridiculous to give ourselves any trouble to promote their felicity. Let each remain in his situation: let the slave endure the lash, the lame his infirmity, and let the beggar perish, since they would gain nothing by a change of situation. The same philosophers enumerate the pangs of the rich, and expatiate on the vanity of their pleasures: was there ever so palpable a sophism! The pangs of a rich man are not essential to riches, but to the abuse of them. If he were even more wretched than the poor, he would deserve no compassion, because he is the creator of his own misery, and happiness was in his power. But the sufferings of the indigent are the natural consequences of his state; he feels the weight of his hard lot; no length of time nor habit, can ever render him insensible of fatigue and hunger: neither wisdom nor good humour can annihilate the evils which are inseparable from his situation. What avails it an Epictetus to foresee that his master is going to break his leg? doth that prevent the evil? on the contrary, his fore-knowledge adds greatly to his misfortune. If the populace were really as wise as we suppose them stupid, how could they act otherwise than as they do? Study this order of men, and you will find that in another
language

language they will utter as much wit and more good sense than yourself. Learn therefore to respect your species. Remember that the common people compose the most considerable part of mankind; and that if all the kings and philosophers were to be taken away, the chasm would be imperceptible, and things would go on just as well without them. In short, teach your pupil to love mankind, and even those by whom mankind are vilified. Let him not rank himself particularly in one, but among all classes of men. Speak to him of man with tenderness and compassion, but never with contempt. Man! dishonour not mankind.

By these, and the like methods equally uncommon, we must penetrate into the heart of youth, excite in it the first emotions of nature, and extend its benevolence to our whole species; and I will add, that in these operations, it is of infinite importance to stifle every selfish principle, and to guard as much as possible against the incursions of vanity, emulation, glory, and all those sentiments which lead us to compare ourselves with others; for such comparisons are never made without some impression of hatred to those who dispute the preference with us, even though it were only in our own estimation: so that we must either

be blind to our own merit, or incensed against our competitor; we must be either envious or insensible. Let us, if possible, avoid this dilemma. These dangerous passions, I shall be told, will sooner or later take root in spite of us. I don't deny it; all things have their proper time and place; I insist only on our not aiding them in their growth.

Such, in general, is the method, in which we ought to proceed. A detail of particular examples would be useless, because we now begin to branch out into an almost infinite variety of characters, and that each example would not suit above one in a hundred thousand. At this age, also, if our tutor be a man of abilities, he will, with true philosophical observation, whilst he moulds the heart of his pupil, enquire into its inmost texture. Whilst your pupil is yet unacquainted with disguise, the impression he receives from every object he sees, may be easily read in his eyes and gesture: his countenance, the true index of his soul, discovers all its motions; by a careful observation of these, we learn, in time, to foresee, and, at last, to direct them.

It is generally remarked, that the sight of blood, or wounds, the sound of cries and groans,

groans, the apparatus of painful operations, and all those objects which excite the idea of suffering, make a more early and more general impression upon mankind than that of death. The idea of final dissolution being more complex, is not so striking. The image of death impresses our minds later, and more faintly, because we have no experience to assist our conception. To form any idea of the agonies of death, we must first have beheld the consequence thereof, in the lifeless body; but when once this image is perfectly formed in our minds, no spectacle can be more horrible; whether it proceeds from the appearance of total dissolution, or from the reflection that, death being inevitable, we ourselves shall, sooner or later, be in the same situation.

These impressions have their different modifications, and degrees, according to the character and habits of each individual; but the impressions themselves are universal. There are other impressions which are slower and less general, and which are peculiar to persons of great sensibility. I mean those which are received from the mental sufferings, sorrow, and affliction of our fellow creatures. There are people who are incapable of being moved, except by cries and tears; the long and silent

I 4 grief

grief of a heart torn with distress, never drew a sigh from their breasts ; they are not affected at the sight of a dejected countenance, pale complexion, and hollow eyes exhausted of their tears. On such hearts the sufferings of the mind have no effect. They are judges without feeling, from whom we have nothing to expect but inflexible rigour and cruelty. Possibly they may be just, but never humane, generous, or compassionate. I say, they may be just, if it be possible for man to be just without being merciful.

Let us not, however, be in haste to form our judgment of youth by this rule, especially those who have had a proper education ; it being impossible for them to have any idea of moral pain, which they have never experienced. They can sympathise with the evils only which they have felt. But this seeming insensibility, proceeding merely from ignorance, will change into tenderness and compassion, as soon as they perceive that in human life there are a thousand evils with which they were unacquainted. As for my Emilius, if he discovers simplicity and plain sense in his infancy, I am very sure he will not want sensibility in his youth ; for the truth of our sensations depends greatly on the justness of our ideas.

But,

But, says the reader, why this scene of affliction? Certainly you must have forgot your first resolution, and the constant felicity which you promised to your pupil. Representations of misery and death: strange felicity! wonderful enjoyment for an heart just entering into life!— This will be the language. No matter: I promised to make him really, not apparently, happy. Is it my fault that you, who are the constant dupes of appearance, mistake it for reality?

Let us take two young boys, and suppose them, after the first stage of their education, entering the world through different ways, diametrically opposite to each other. One mounts up at once to the summit of Olympus, and mixes in the most brilliant society. He is presented at court, and introduced to the great; he becomes acquainted with the rich men and the fine women. We will suppose him universally entertained and caressed, without examining into its effects upon his reason, which we will imagine to be in no danger. Pleasures anticipate his desires: every day presents him with fresh amusements, and he seems to enjoy them all. He appears attentive, eager and curious. You are struck with his first rapture. You think him happy; but look into the state

of his mind. You think he enjoys these splendid amusements; I think he suffers under them.

His eyes no sooner open than he perceives a multitude of pretended pleasures which have entirely escaped him, and many others which, from the shortness of their duration, seem to have presented themselves only to punish him with regret for their departure. Observe him surveying a palace, and you see, by his impatient curiosity, that he is asking himself why his paternal mansion is not equally magnificent? All his questions indicate that he is continually comparing himself with the owner of the palace, and every mortifying circumstance in the comparison serves only to stimulate and excite his vanity. If, by chance, he meets a youth better dressed than himself, I hear him murmuring against the avarice of his parents. If, on the contrary, he happens to excel in point of dress, perhaps he has the mortification to find himself eclipsed by the birth or sense of another, and all his finery humbled before a plain suit. If he shines at a ball or an assembly, and raises himself on tiptoe in order to be more conspicuous, is there a man in the whole company who does not wish to mortify the young coxcomb? They soon unite against him: the contemptuous regards of the grave, and the rail-
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lery of the gay, cannot fail to render his situation disagreeable; but were he to perceive himself despised only by one single man, that were alone sufficient to invalidate the applause of all the rest.

But we will suppose him possessed of real merit, and every agreeable accomplishment; that he is handsome, witty, amiable; that he is the favourite of the ladies; by anticipating his inclinations, however, they make a fool of him rather than a lover. He will succeed in some affairs of gallantry; but he will have no passion, no transport for enjoyment. His desires being continually prevented, in the lap of pleasure he is tired with constraint. The sex, which was created for the happiness of the other, satisfies and disgusts him, even before he knows the sex. If he continues to visit them, it is now merely out of vanity; but if, at last, he becomes sincerely attached, he will find himself no longer the only young, sprightly, amiable fellow in the world; his mistresses will be no prodigies of fidelity.

I say nothing of the quarrels, treachery, vexation, and regret, which are inseparable from this way of life: we know that experience will, in time, convince us of its folly,

and give us a distaste for it : I am now speaking only of the lasting disgust attendant upon the first illusion.

How different must this scene appear to one who, till now, had been wrapt up in the bosom of his family and friends, and was the sole object of their care and attention, to enter at once into a world where he is of so little account, and to find that he is lost in a new sphere, who was himself so lately the center of his own. How many affronts ! how many humiliations must he experience, before he loses the prejudice of his importance ! Whilst a child, he was obeyed and flattered ; and now he is become a young man, he is obliged to submit to all the world : or, if he should happen to forget himself, and assume his former airs, how mortifying are the lessons which bring him back to reason ! Being accustomed to obtain with ease the objects of his desire, his desires are many ; consequently so are his disappointments. He covets every thing he sees ; he envies all mankind ; he wishes to be universally obeyed. Puffed up with vanity, enflamed with lawless appetites, tormented by jealousy, hatred, and every other devouring passion, he carries their agitation with him daily into the tumult of the world,

world, and brings it back again every night. He comes home full of discontent. He lies down to rest with a thousand vain projects in his head, and his pride, even in his sleep, paints on his imagination the chimerical pleasures with which his desires torment him, but which he will never enjoy. Such is the portrait of your pupil : let us now take a view of mine.

If the first object which presents itself happens to exhibit a melancholy spectacle, the sensation is immediately succeeded by a pleasing idea : perceiving himself exempt from the evils with which others are afflicted, he finds that he is happier than he imagined. He sympathises in the sufferings of his fellow creatures ; but that sympathy is voluntary and agreeable. He enjoys at once the compassion which he feels for their misfortunes, and his own happiness in being exempt from their fate ; he perceives in himself that power which extends us beyond ourselves, and enables us to communicate to others the activity which is superfluous to our own well being. To sympathise in the misfortunes of others, doubtless it is necessary we should know, though not that we should feel them. Having suffered, or being apprehensive of suffering, we pity those who actually suffer ; but as soon as the evil becomes our own, all our
pity

pity centers in ourselves. Now all mankind being subject to the miseries of life, if we grant to others that sensibility only of which we have no need on our own account, it follows that pity must be a very pleasing sentiment, because it is a proof of our felicity; and that on the contrary, a man of no feeling must necessarily be unhappy, since the texture of his heart affords him no super-abundant sensibility for the sufferings of his fellow creatures.

We are too apt to judge of happiness by appearances; we suppose it to be where it very rarely exists; we seek it where it cannot be found. Mirth is a very equivocal kind of happiness. A merry fellow is often in reality an unhappy mortal, who, by laughing, endeavours to conceal and to forget his misery. Those gentlemen who in a polite circle appear so good humoured, so open, so serene, are generally morose and peevish at home: their domestics feel the want of that good nature which they lavish upon their companions. True contentment is never extremely gay or noisy; its possessor, ever careful of so pleasing a sensation, will not suffer it to evaporate, but enjoys the invaluable blessing with deliberate taste and reflection. The man who is really happy speaks little, and seldom laughs: he, as it were, contracts

tracts his circle of felicity round his heart. Solitude and silence are friends to true pleasure. Tender emotions and tears are the companions of enjoyment; and even excessive joy more frequently produces tears than laughter.

The number and variety of amusements may possibly seem to contribute to happiness, and the simplicity of an uniform life appear tiresome; but a more attentive observation will convince us, that the most perfect felicity of the soul consists in moderation of enjoyment, so as to curb the violence of desire, and prevent disgust. The inquietude of desire produces curiosity and inconstancy; lassitude and discontent are the offspring of turbulent pleasures. We cannot be weary of our situation, if we know not a better. Of all mankind, savages are the least curious, and least tired of their existence. They look upon every object with indifference: they enjoy not the circumstances of life, but life itself. They spend their whole time in doing nothing, and yet their time never hangs heavily on their hands.

The man of the world is entirely covered with a mask; he is so accustomed to disguise, that if, at any time, he is obliged, for a moment, to assume his natural character, his uneasiness.

ness and constraint are palpably obvious. Reality is no part of his concern, he aims at nothing more than appearance.

I cannot help figuring to myself, in the face of the fine young fop above mentioned, a certain impertinent smile of affectation, which, to men of rational simplicity, is insupportable; and, on the contrary, in that of mine, methinks, I behold an interesting, open countenance, strongly expressive of the sincerity of his mind, inspiring esteem and confidence, and seeming to wait only the overflowings of his heart, to give his friendship to all those who approach him.

I think, we generally suppose the physiognomy, or countenance, to be formed by a simple display of the traces already sketched out by nature. For my part, I am of opinion, that besides this natural display of the features, they are insensibly fashioned into physiognomy by the frequent impression of certain affections of the mind. That these affections are impressed on the visage is beyond doubt, and that such impressions, by frequent repetition, must necessarily become durable. Hence, I suppose, it is, that a man's character may frequently be discovered in his face, without
having

having recourse to mysterious explications, which suppose a knowledge we are not endowed with.

In the countenance of a child there are only two affections which are strongly impressed, namely joy and grief : he laughs, or he cries ; the intermediate affections are nothing. He passes incessantly from one emotion to the other ; and this continual change prevents any permanent impression which might form a physiognomy ; but at an age when, becoming more sensible, he is more powerfully and frequently affected, the impressions are too deep to be easily effaced, and from the habitual state of the mind results a certain arrangement of features which in time becomes unalterable. Nevertheless, I have seen men change their physiognomy at different ages ; but whenever this happened, where it was in my power to observe them with attention, I have always remarked that there was a change also in their habitual passions. This single observation, sufficiently confirmed, seems to be decisive, and not improperly urged in a treatise on education, which ought to teach us how to perceive the emotions of the soul by exterior signs.

Whether

Whether my pupil will be less amiable for not having learnt the art of disguising his sentiments and of feigning sensations which he never felt, is not my business to determine. This I know, that he will be more loving, and I am much inclined to doubt whether he who loves himself alone, can act his part so well as to seem more deserving of esteem, than he whose happiness, in some measure, consists in his affection for others. But with regard to this sentiment, I believe, I have already said enough to guide a sensible reader, and convince him that I have uniformly adhered to my first principles.

I now return to my system, and proceed. When this critical age approaches, exhibit to your pupil such scenes as may restrain, rather than accelerate the growth of his passions. Carry him from the town, where the immodest dress and behaviour of the women anticipate the instructions of nature; where every scene presents him with pleasures with which he ought to remain unacquainted, till he is able to chuse with propriety. Carry him back to his first habitation, whose rural simplicity will suffer his passions to unfold in their natural gradation. But if a taste for the arts should attach him to the town, let that taste
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serve to prevent a dangerous inactivity. Be extremely circumspect in the choice of his companions, his employment, his pleasures. Shew him such pictures as are affecting, but modest; such as will nourish his sensibility, without enflaming his desires. But let us not forget that whilst we endeavour to avoid one extremum, there is a possibility of falling into the other. It is not my intention to afflict my young pupil continually with objects of horror and distress; to carry him from hospital to hospital, and from one prison to another. We must not, by too frequent repetition, harden, instead of softening his heart, at the sight of human woes. What we too often behold we cease to imagine, and it is in imagination only that we feel the miseries of others. Hence, from their constant visits to the dying and the sick, the hearts of priests and physicians grow callous and obdurate. Let your pupil, therefore, be made acquainted with the lot of man, and the sufferings of his species; but let him not be too frequent a witness of such calamity. A single object, judiciously chosen, and shewn at a proper time, will inspire him with tenderness, and afford him reflection for a whole month. It is not so much the object itself, as his return to it in idea, which determines his judgment; and the permanency of the impression upon his
mind

mind depends also less upon the object, than the point of view in which it is recalled to his mind. By this management of our examples, lessons, and images, we shall for a long time blunt the dangerous edge of inclination, and divert the attention of nature whilst we follow her own dictates.

In proportion as he becomes more enlightened, let the ideas which you mean to excite be adapted to his understanding ; and in proportion as his desires take fire, make choice of such objects as will most effectually stifle the flame. I remember to have been told by an old military gentleman, who was as much distinguished for his morals as for his courage, that his father, who was a sensible man, but extremely devout, seeing that he was naturally too much inclined to women, spared no pains to curb this propensity ; but finding, notwithstanding all his care, that his son still persisted in his vices, he carried him to an hospital established for the cure of people in the venereal disease, and without any previous intimation of his design, led him into a gallery full of those unhappy wretches, who were severely expiating the folly which had brought them thither. At this hideous spectacle, so offensive to all his senses,
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the young man grew sick. *Go, thou wretched debauchée, said the father, with a significant look and emphasis, follow thy loose inclinations ; it will not be long before thou wilt think thyself happy in being admitted into this place, or perhaps, a victim to the most infamous sufferings, thou wilt compel thy father to thank God for thy death.*

These few words, joined to the affecting scene before him, made an impression upon the young man which time could never efface. Condemned by his profession to spend his youth in garrisons, he chose rather to bear the raillery of his companions than imitate their vices. *I was a man, said he, and have had my foibles ; but during my whole life, I never could behold a public prostitute without horror.* Tutors ! let me advise you to put little confidence in words ; but learn to make a proper choice of time, place, and circumstances : let examples be your lectures, and rest assured of their effect.

During infancy, our employment is inconsiderable ; the neglects or mistakes of that age are not without remedy, and the good we imbibed might be communicated at a later period : but it is otherwise with regard to the age when man first begins really to live. This age is always too short for the use which we ought to make of it,

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it, and its importance requires an unwearied attention : for this reason I dwell upon the art of extending it beyond its natural duration. One of the first precepts in the art of cultivation, is to retard nature as much as possible, that her progress may be slow but certain. We must not suffer our youth to commence man the moment it is in his power. Whilst the body is growing, those spirits which give life to the blood, and strength to the fibres, are yet unprepared and imperfect. If they be carried into a different channel, and that which was intended to compleat an individual, be employed in the formation of another, they will both remain feeble, and the work of nature will be left imperfect. The operations of the mind are also influenced by this perversion : the functions of the soul are as languid and spiritless as those of the body. Robust limbs, indeed, do not constitute courage or genius ; and I can conceive that strength of mind will never accompany that of body, if the organs of communication between the body and mind are improperly disposed : but how perfect soever they may be in this respect, they will always act feebly, if the blood which gives them motion be exhausted, impoverished, and devoid of that substance which ought to give life and power to every spring in the machine. I have
generally

generally observed more vigour of mind among those people whose youth are preserved from a premature corruption of manners, than in more civilized communities, where the disorder commences with the power ; and doubtless this is one of the reasons why a people, whose manners are uncorrupted, surpass their profligate neighbours in valour and good sense. The latter shine only in certain subtle qualities which they call wit, sagacity, cunning ; but those grand and noble functions of wisdom and reason which, in great actions, distinguish and honour mankind, are rarely to be found except among the former.

Our instructors complain that the natural fire of this age renders youth ungovernable : very true ; but is it not entirely their own fault ? Can they be ignorant that when they have once suffered this fire to make its way through the senses, it is not in their power to divert its course ? Will the tedious, frigid sermons of a pedant efface, from the mind of his pupil, the idea of pleasure which he has conceived ? Will they banish from his heart the desires which torment him ? Will they quench the ardour of a flame of which he already knows the use ? Will he not be enraged at those obstacles which oppose the only happiness of which he has any
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idea ?

idea ? and in the severe law prescribed without explanation, what can he discover except the caprice and hatred of a man who chuses to torment him ? Is it, therefore, wonderful that he should oppose and hate the pedagogue in his turn ?

It is easy to conceive that by relaxing his severity a tutor may render himself less disagreeable to his pupil, and yet preserve an apparent authority ; but I cannot perceive the use of that authority which serves only to foment the vices which it ought to repress : it is much the same as if a rider, in order to tame an unruly horse, were to leap him down a precipice.

This fire of youth, so far from being an obstacle in his education, is the proper instrument of its accomplishment ; it is that which gives you an advantage over the heart of your pupil, when he ceases to be less powerful than yourself. His first affections are the reins with which you should direct all his motions. He was before at liberty ; but now he is enslaved. Whilst he was incapable of affection, he was dependent only on himself and his necessities ; but the moment he loves, he depends on his attachments. Thus are formed the first bonds which unite him to his species ; but we are not to suppose that his
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new born sensibility will be universal, or that he will conceive any meaning in the word Mankind. No, that sensibility will first be confined to his equals, and his equals are those only with whom he is acquainted; those whom custom has rendered dear to him, or useful; those in whom he perceives a similitude of ideas and sensations; those who are exposed to the pains, and are sensible of the pleasures, which he has experienced; in a word, those in whom the more manifest identity of nature increases his disposition to self-love. It is not till after having cultivated his disposition in a thousand forms, after much reflection on his own sentiments, as well as those of others, that he will be able to generalize his notions under the abstract idea of humanity, and add to his particular affections, those which are to unite him to the whole species.

In becoming capable of attachment, he becomes sensible of it in others*, and therefore attentive to the signs of this attachment. Thus,

* Attachment may exist without a return, but friendship cannot; the latter is an exchange, a contract, like any other, only more sacred. The word friendship has no *correlative*. Every man who is not the friend of his friend, is doubtless a cheat; for friendship can only be obtained by friendship, either real or apparent

you see, what a new empire you acquire over him ; you enslave his heart before he is aware of it. What must be his sensations, when, turning his eyes upon himself, he discovers the services you have done for him ; when he compares himself with other young people of his own age, and you with other tutors ? I say, when he discovers, for let it never be urged : if you once hint the obligation, from that instant he will cease to perceive it. If you exact obedience in return for your services, he will suspect that he has been deceived ; he will conclude that under pretence of serving him, you have bound him in a contract to which he never consented. In vain you will urge, that what you exact is entirely for his own good ; it is sufficient that it is exacted ; and that in return for what was done without his consent.

When an unhappy wretch accepts a shilling, supposing it to be a gift, and afterwards finds himself to be enlisted, do we not exclaim against the injustice ? and are you not equally unjust to demand a return for obligations which your pupil never accepted ?

Ingratitude would be more rare, if benefits upon usury were less common. Nothing can be more natural than to love those who do us service.

service. The heart of man is self-interested, but never ungrateful ; and the obliged are less to be charged with ingratitude than their benefactors with self-interest. If you sell me your favours, let us settle the price ; but if you pretend to give, and afterwards expect to make terms with me, you are guilty of fraud ; it is their being given gratis which renders them inestimable. The heart will receive laws only from itself ; by endeavouring to enslave it you give it liberty, and by leaving it at liberty it becomes your slave.

When the fisherman throws his bait into the water, the fish assemble, and continue round him without suspicion ; but when caught by the concealed hook they perceive him draw the line, they then endeavour to escape. Is the fisherman their benefactor, or are the fish ungrateful ? Do we ever see a man, who is forgotten by his benefactor, forget that benefactor ? On the contrary, he speaks of him with pleasure, and never thinks of him without emotion : and if by chance he has it in his power to make any return for the favours he has received, with what joy he snatches the opportunity ; with what rapture he exclaims, Now it is my turn to oblige : such is the true voice of nature. A real benefit can never produce ingratitude.

If therefore gratitude be a natural sentiment, and you do not, by your own fault, destroy its effects, be assured that your pupil, beginning to perceive the benefits he receives from your care, will be sensible of his obligation, provided you yourself have not fixed a price on these benefits ; thus you will acquire an authority over his heart, which nothing can possibly subvert. Till it is time to treat him as a man, let there be no mention of his obligations to his tutor, but to himself. If you mean to make him docile and tractable, let him have full liberty ; leave him frequently to himself, and he will fly to you for assistance ; inspire him with the noble sentiment of gratitude, by speaking to him of his own interest. I avoided this argument so long as he was unable to comprehend it ; because seeing in it nothing farther than the dependence of his tutor, he might possibly mistake him for his valet : but now he begins to have some idea of affection, he perceives those endearing ties, by which a man may be united to a particular object ; and in your unwearied zeal for his welfare, he no longer beholds the attachment of a slave, but the affection of a friend. Nothing has so much influence over the human heart as the voice of undoubted friendship ; we know that our friend may possibly be mistaken, but we are certain
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he cannot intend to deceive us ; we may differ from him in opinion, but we can never treat his councils with contempt.

Having compleated the second period of our physical existence, we now enter upon the system of our moral relations. If this were the proper place, I should endeavour to shew in what manner the first suggestions of conscience, proceed from the first emotions of the heart ; and how our notions of good and evil are the offspring of our sentiments of love and hatred. I could demonstrate that *justice* and *goodness* are not merely abstract ideas, having only a moral existence in the understanding ; but that they are real affections of the soul enlightened by reason, and proceeding in regular progression from our primitive affections ; that reason, independent of conscience, would be unable to establish any one natural law ; and that the law of nature is a mere chimera, if it is not founded on some innate principle in the human heart *. But I am
not

* Even the precept of doing as we would be done by, has no true foundation except in conscience and sensibility. Where is the precise reason for my acting as if I were another, especially if I am morally certain that I shall never be in his situation ? Who will be answerable, provided I observe this maxim, that others will not act upon the same principle with me ?

not writing a treatise of morals or metaphysics, nor a course of science of any kind : I intend only to trace the order and progress of our knowledge and sentiments relative to our natural constitution. Possibly others may demonstrate what I have chosen in this place only to indicate.

My Emilius, having hitherto regarded only himself, no sooner begins to consider his fellow-creatures than he compares himself with them, and the first sentiment excited by this comparison is the desire of preference. This is the period when the natural love of himself changes into selfishness, and when all its attendant passions begin to exist ; but in order to determine

The villain reaps advantage from the probity of the just, and from his own injustice : he would be glad that all the world were just except himself. This maxim, say what we will, is by no means advantageous to honest men. But when the force of an expansive mind makes me, as it were, identically the same person with my fellow-creature, I prevent his suffering for my own sake, and in this I follow nature, who inspires me with the desire of my own well-being in all situations. Hence, I conclude that the precepts of natural law are not founded merely upon reason : they rest upon a more certain and solid basis. The love of mankind derived from self-love is the great principle of human justice. The summary of all morality is given in the gospel under that of the law.

what particular passions will be predominant in his character, whether he will incline to humanity, compassion, benevolence, or to envy, revenge and cruelty, it is necessary to know, to what rank of men he imagines himself to belong, and what kind of obstacles he will have to remove, before he can arrive at the place which he intends to occupy.

In order to direct him in his choice, after having shewn him mankind by the accidents common to the species, you will then shew them by their differences. Hence will arise the measure of natural and civil inequality, and a just picture of the whole order of society.

We must study society by studying men, and men by studying society. Those who treat morals and politics separately, will never be acquainted with either. By first considering man's primitive relations, we perceive in what manner they ought to affect him, and what passions they ought to produce: we discover that it is reciprocally as the progress of the passions that these relations multiply or diminish. It is not so much their power, as their moderation, which renders mankind independent. He whose desires are few, has few attachments; but, confounding our luxuriant desires with our physical necessities, those who have considered the latter

as the foundation of human society, have mistaken the effect for the cause, and have consequently pursued a continued chain of false reasoning.

There is, in the state of nature, an equality of real and unalterable right; for it is impossible that in such a state, the difference between man and man should be so great as to render one dependent on the other. In the state of civil society, there is a chimerical equality of right; for the means intended to maintain that right serve only to destroy it, and the strength of the publick being added to that of the stronger in order to oppress the weak, destroys the equilibrium in which mankind were placed by nature*. From this first contradiction proceed all the others which we observe, in civil society, between appearance and reality. The many will always be sacrificed to the few, and publick interest to that of particulars. The specious names of justice and subordination will be made the instruments of violence and the weapons of iniquity. Hence it follows, that those distinguished orders of men, which pretend to be use-

* The universal spirit of laws, in all countries, is to favour the strong in opposition to the weak, and to assist those who have possessions against those who have none. This inconveniency is inevitable, and without exception.

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ful to the rest, are in reality, at the expence of the rest, useful only to themselves; and hence may be determined what consideration they deserve, according to the laws of reason and justice. We are now to enquire whether the rank which they have assumed contributes more to their own happiness, that hence we may know what judgment we ought each of us to form of our own lot. This is the proper object of our present enquiry; but it will be necessary first to make ourselves acquainted with the human heart.

If man is to be shewn to our pupil only in masquerade, we might save ourselves that trouble, for he will see enough of that without our assistance; but since the mask is not the man, and as youth ought not to be deceived, let us paint mankind as they really are; but let them be exhibited in such a light as may excite his compassion rather than his contempt. That compassion which implies a resolution to avoid their follies, is the most laudable sentiment a man can entertain with respect to his species.

With this intention, we must now take a different rout from that which we have hitherto pursued, and instruct our pupil rather by the experience of others than by his own. If men deceive him, he will hate them; but if, whilst

he is respected, they deceive each other, they will excite his compassion. A view of the world, said Pythagoras, is like that of the Olympic games. Some carry on trade and are attentive only to their profit, others expose their persons in pursuit of glory, whilst others again are mere spectators of the sports, and these perhaps are not the worst employed.

It were to be wished, that the companions of our pupil were so chosen as to make him think well of those with whom he converses, and that it were possible to give him so just a knowledge of the world as to make him think ill of all its transactions. He should know that man is naturally good, he should perceive it in his own heart, and judge of his neighbour by himself; but let him observe how mankind are depraved and perverted by society; shew him that their prejudices are the source of all their vices. Let him be inclined to esteem each individual, but to despise the multitude. Make him sensible, that all men wear nearly the same mask; but that there are some faces much handsomer than the masks by which they are disguised.

This method, it must be confessed, has its inconveniences, and is somewhat difficult in practice; for, by making him so early an observer,
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by teaching him to scan the actions of men so minutely, you will render him slanderous and satirical, peremptory and uncharitable in his judgment. He will grow familiar with the sight of vice; and, as by custom we lose our sensibility for the wretched, he will soon contemplate the actions of the wicked without horror. He will soon consider the general depravity as an example for his imitation, rather than as a lesson of instruction, and will see no reason why he should endeavour to be better than the rest of mankind.

If, on the contrary, you mean to proceed methodically, and whilst you display the human heart, shew him the application of those external causes which convert our natural inclinations into vices; by thus transporting him from sensible to intellectual objects, you employ a metaphysical process which he cannot comprehend; you fall into the error, which we have hitherto so carefully avoided, of teaching by lessons which have the appearance of mere precept, and of substituting the experience and authority of the master, in the room of his own experience and the natural progress of his reason.

To obviate these objections, and to bring him acquainted with the human heart, without

endangering his own, I would shew him mankind at a distance, in other times and other places; so that he might be a spectator of the scene without having it in his power to become an actor. This is the proper time to introduce history: there he will read the heart of man without the assistance of philosophical lectures; there he will behold mankind, not as their accomplice or accuser, but as their impartial judge.

If we would know men, it is necessary that we should see them act. Our contemporaries expose their words, and conceal their actions; but history lifts the veil, and we found our judgment upon facts. In history even the words of men serve to ascertain their character; for by comparing them with their actions, we see at once what they really are, and what they would appear to be: the more they disguise themselves, the better they are known.

Unfortunately, the study of history is not without its dangers and inconveniences of various kinds. It is a very difficult matter to place one's self in such a point of view, as to be able to judge equitably of our fellow creatures. It is one of the common vices of history, to paint man in a disadvantageous, rather than a favourable light. Revolutions and fatal catastrophes
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being most interesting, so long as people have continued to increase and prosper in the calm of a peaceable government, history hath remained silent ; it speaks of nations only when, growing insupportable to themselves, they begin to interfere with their neighbours, or to suffer their neighbours to interfere with them : it begins not to make them illustrious till they are already on the decline : in short, all our histories begin where they ought to end. We are favoured with very exact accounts of those nations which verge towards destruction ; but of those which have been flourishing we have no history at all : they have been so wise and so happy as to furnish no events worth recording. Even in our own times we see that those governments which are best conducted are least mentioned. Only bad men are celebrated, whilst the good are forgotten, or turned into ridicule : thus history, as well as philosophy, never ceases to calumniate mankind.

But the historical relation of facts is by no means an accurate delineation of them, as they really happened : they change their aspect in the brain of the historian, they bend to his interest, and are tinged by his prejudices. What historian ever brought his reader to the scene of action, and shewed the event exactly
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as it happened ? Every thing is disguised by ignorance or partiality. How easy it is, by a different representation of circumstances, to give a thousand various appearances to the same facts ? Shew an object in different points of view, and we hardly believe it to be the same, and yet nothing is changed, except the eye of the spectator. Is it sufficient for the honour of truth, to exhibit a real fact in a false light ? How often has it happened that a few trees more or less, a hill upon the right or left, or a sudden cloud of dust, have turned the scale of victory, without the cause being perceived ? nevertheless the historian will assign a reason for the victory or defeat with as much confidence as if he had been at the same instant in every part of the battle. Of what consequence are mere facts, or what am I to learn from a relation of events of whose causes I am totally ignorant ? The historian, it is true, assigns causes, but they are of his own invention : even criticism itself, is nothing more than the art of conjecturing ; the art of selecting, from a number of lies, that which bears the nearest resemblance to truth.

Probably you have read *Cleopatra*, or *Cassandra*, or other books of the same kind. The author makes choice of a known event, which
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he accommodates to his design, adorns with circumstances of his own invention, and personages which never existed, crowding fiction upon fiction to make his story more entertaining. Now, I see little difference between those romances and our real histories, except that the romance-writer gives a greater scope to his own imagination, and the historian accommodates himself more to that of other people: to which I may add, that the former has a moral object in view, either good or bad, about which the latter gives himself no concern.

It will be urged, that the veracity of history is of less consequence than the truth of manners and characters; provided we have a faithful delineation of the human heart, no matter whether events are truly reported or not; for, after all, what concern have we with facts that happened two thousand years ago? You are quite in the right, if your historian has painted his manners and characters from nature; but, since they are chiefly creatures of his own imagination, are we not falling into the very error we endeavoured to avoid, by giving that credit to the historian which we refused to our tutor? If our pupil is to see nothing but ideal representations, I would chuse to sketch them with my own hand, as, in that case, they will probably be better adapted.

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The worst historians, for a young reader, are those who *favour* us with their judgment. A plain narrative of facts is all he wants : let him judge for himself, and he will learn to know mankind. If he is constantly guided by an author's opinion, he sees only with the eyes of another ; and when these are taken from him, he does not see at all.

I throw aside modern history, not only because it has no characteristic, and that all our men exactly resemble each other ; but because our historians, intent only on displaying their talents, think of nothing but painting portraits highly coloured, and which frequently bear no resemblance to any thing in nature*. The ancients, in general, abound less in portraiture, and shew less wit, but more sense in their reflections ; yet even the ancients are very different from each other : we should at first rather prefer the most simple, than the most profound and judicious. I would neither put Polybius nor Sallust into the hands of a boy ; as for Tacitus, he is intelligible only to old men. We must learn to read, in the actions of men,

* See Davila, Guicciardini, Strada, Solis, Machiavel, and sometimes even Thuanus himself. Vertot is almost the only one who has not fallen into this vicious practice of portrait-painting.

the outlines of the human heart, before we attempt to fathom it to the bottom. We must learn to read facts before maxims. Philosophy, laid down in maxims, belongs only to experience. Youth ought to generalize nothing: all our instructions should be derived from particular examples.

Thucydides, in my opinion, is the best model for historians: he relates facts without judging of them; but he omits no circumstance which may serve to direct the judgment of his reader. He presents every object to our sight; and so far from interposing his authority, he carefully conceals himself from us: we do not seem to read events, but actually to see them. Unfortunately his constant subject is war, and a recital of battles is, of all things, the least instructive. Xenophon's retreat of the ten thousand, and Cæsar's commentaries, are remarkable for the same prudence and the same defect. Honest Herodotus, without painting, without maxims, but flowing, simple, and full of pleasing and interesting particulars, would be perhaps the best historian, if his details did not frequently degenerate into puerility, more likely to viciate than improve the taste of youth: it requires discernment to read Herodotus.—I take no notice of Livy at present, except that
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he is a politician, a rhetorician, and every thing that is improper, at this age.

History is generally defective in recording only those facts which are rendered conspicuous by name, place, or date ; but the slow progressive causes of those facts, not being thus distinguished, remain for ever unknown. How frequently do we find a battle, lost or won, mentioned as the cause of a revolution, which was become inevitable before the battle was fought ? War is generally nothing more than a manifestation of events already determined by moral causes, of which historians are ignorant.

The spirit of philosophy has, in like manner, infected many of the writers of this age ; but I am in doubt whether truth gains any thing by their labours. A madness for system having got possession of them all, they never endeavour to see things as they really are, but as they best agree with their favourite hypotheses.

To these reflections we may add, that history is a representation of actions rather than of men, who are shewn only at certain intervals, in their vestments of parade : we see man only in public life, after he has put himself in a proper position for being viewed. History follows

follows him not into his house, into his closet, among his family and friends : it paints him only when he makes his appearance ; it exhibits his dress, and not his person.

I should rather chuse to begin the study of the human heart by reading the lives of particular men ; for there it is impossible for the hero to conceal himself a moment. The biographer pursues him into his most secret recesses, and exposes him to the piercing eye of the spectator ; he is best known when he believes himself most concealed. " I like, says Montagne, those biographers who give us the history of counsels, rather than events ; who shew us what passes within, rather than without : therefore Plutarch is the writer after my own heart."

I confess the genius of a people is very different from that of man considered as an individual, and that we shall be imperfectly acquainted with mankind if we neglect the study of the multitude ; but it is also true, that we must begin by studying man in order to know mankind ; and that if we know the propensities of each individual, it will not be difficult to foresee their effects when combined in the body of the people.

Here again we are obliged to have recourse to the ancients, partly for the reasons already urged,

ged, but more especially because all familiar and low, though true and characteristic details, are inconsistent with the polite style of the moderns ; hence men are equally adorned and disguised in private as in public life. Decency, no less severe in description than in action, permits us to *say* nothing in public which we are not allowed to *do* ; and as men are to be shewn only in disguise, we learn as little of them in books as from our theatres. We may write and rewrite the lives of kings as often as we please, but we shall never see another Suetonius *.

Plutarch's excellence consists chiefly in those very minutiae into which we dare not enter. There is an inimitable gracefulness in his manner of painting great men engaged in trivial employments, and he is so happy in the choice of his incidents, that frequently a single word, a smile, a gesture, is sufficient to characterise his hero. Hannibal, with a judicious piece of pleasantry, re-animates his disheartened troops, and leads them smiling to the battle which opened to him the gates of Italy. In Agesilaus astride upon a stick, I admire the conqueror of a great

* Only one of our historians, who has imitated the grand strokes of Tacitus, has dared to copy Suetonius, and sometimes to transcribe Comines, in their details ; but he has been condemned by the critics for this circumstance, which really adds merit to his book.

monarch

monarch. Cæsar, in passing through a poor village, and talking familiarly with his friends, discloses, without intending it, the deceiver, who before pretended he only wanted to be on an equality with Pompey.

Alexander swallows a medicine without speaking a word ; this was the most brilliant moment of his life : Aristides writes his own name upon a shell, and thus justifies his surname : Philopœmen throws aside his robe and cleaves wood in the kitchen of his host. This is the true art of painting. We ought not to judge of physiognomy by the strongest lines in the face, nor of the characters of men by their great actions. Public transactions are either too common or too much studied and prepared ; yet these are the only incidents worthy the dignity of modern history.

Marshal Turenne was incontestably one of the greatest men of the last age. The writer of his life has had the courage to render it interesting by relating some minute particulars which make his hero known and beloved ; but how many was he not obliged to suppress, which would have taught us to know and love him still more ! I shall instance only one, which I have from good authority, and which Plutarch would
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by no means have omitted, but which Ramsay, if he had known it, would not have dared to relate.

The Marshal happened, one hot day, to be looking out at the window of his anti-chamber, in a white waistcoat and night-cap. A servant entering the room, deceived by his dress, mistakes him for one of the under cooks. He comes softly behind him, and with a hand, which was not of the lightest, gives him a violent slap on the breech. The Marshal instantly turns about, and the fellow, frightened out of his wits, beholds the face of his master: down he drops upon his knees—*Oh! My lord! I thought it was George—And suppose it had been George,* replied the Marshal, rubbing his backside, *you ought not to have struck quite so hard.* Such are the strokes our modern daubers dare not attempt. Go on, and remain for ever destitute of nature, void of sensibility! steel your hearts with your wretched decorum; and by your formality render yourselves despicable! But thou, honest young man, who readest this anecdote, and who feelest with tenderness all that sweetness of disposition which it immediately indicates, and which is so rarely found in our first emotions; read also the minutiae of this great man when his birth and name were in question.

Remember

Remember it is the same Turenne who constantly gave place to his nephew, so that one might always perceive the child to be a sovereign prince. Compare these contrasts, love nature, despise opinion, and know mankind.

There are few people capable of conceiving the effect which reading, thus directed, will have upon young minds. Accustomed, from our infancy, to grow dull by poring over books, and to read without thinking, we are still less affected by what we read; for having within ourselves the same passions and prejudices with which history abounds, every transaction appears natural, because we ourselves have deviated from nature, and we judge of others accordingly. But let us, on the contrary, imagine a youth educated according to my principles; my Emilius, for example, in whom, to preserve a sound judgment and integrity of heart, has been the object of eighteen years assiduity. Let us suppose him, when the curtain is drawn up, casting his eyes, for the first time, on the stage of the world; or rather, placed behind the scenes, observing the actors dress and undress, and counting the cords and pulleys, by the gross delusion of which the eyes of the spectators are deceived. His first surprize will soon be succeeded by emotions of shame, and disdain
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of his species ; he will, with a just contempt, behold mankind their own dupes, debasing themselves by such puerile occupations ; but he will weep to see his brethren tear each other in pieces for mere shadows : not satisfied with being men, becoming beasts of prey.

Certainly, with the dispositions natural to our pupil, if our tutor has any judgment in the choice of books, or capacity to direct the youth in his reflections, his reading will be, in effect, a course of practical philosophy ; better and more intelligible than the idle speculations which confound the senses of our young people in the schools.

Cyneas, having followed Pyrrhus through all his romantic projects, asks him what real benefit he would reap from the conquest of the whole world, since he could not enjoy that which he already possessed, without so much trouble and anxiety ? We see nothing in this question, except a slight flash of wit which immediately vanishes ; but Emilius perceives in it a wise reflection, which he himself might have made, and which can never be effaced from his mind, because it meets with no opposite prejudice to hinder the impression. When in reading the life of this madman, he finds afterwards that
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all his grand designs led him only to die by the hand of a woman; instead of admiring his pretended heroism, what will he behold, in all the exploits of so great a general, and all the intrigues of so subtle a politician, but so many steps in quest of that unlucky tile, which was to terminate all his schemes by an inglorious death?

All conquerors have not been killed; all usurpers have not fallen in their enterprises; many of them have appeared happy in the superficial opinion of the vulgar; but one who, not imposed on by appearances, judges of men's happiness by the state of their hearts, will discover misery even in their success, corroding anxiety and insatiable desires increase with their fortune, and will see them gasping for breath as they advance, without ever reaching the prize. He will compare them to travellers, who in their first attempt to pass the Alps, think every mountain the last, and when they reach the top, are discouraged, to find still higher mountains before them.

Augustus having subjected his fellow-citizens, and destroyed his rivals, governed during forty years the greatest empire that ever existed; but did this immense power hinder him from

beating his head against the wall, and filling the palace with his cries, when he desired of Varus his exterminated legions? If he had even conquered all his enemies, what would his vain triumphs have signified, so long as his troubles were daily increasing, his dearest friends attempting his life, and he himself reduced to bewail the infamy or death of all his relations? The poor wretch would govern the world, and was not able to govern his own family? What was the consequence? He saw his nephew, his adopted son, and his son-in-law, perish in the flower of their age; his grand-son was reduced to eat his bed straw, to prolong his miserable existence a few hours; his daughter and his grand daughter, finished their infamous lives, one in misery and want on a desert island, the other in prison by the hand of an executioner. At last, the great Augustus himself, the solitary remnant of his unhappy family, is reduced by his own wife to leave the government of his empire to that monster Tiberius. Such was the lot of this mighty ruler of the world, so universally celebrated for his glory and felicity: can I believe that any one of those who are captivated by such phantoms, would purchase them at the same price?

I have chose ambition for an example; but the effects of all the human passions afford the same

same lesson, to those who study history with a design to know themselves, and to learn wisdom from the dead. The time draws near, when the life of Antoninus will afford more instruction to a young man than that of Augustus. Emilius may possibly be a little bewildered among the variety of objects which this new study will present; but perceiving that mankind have, in all ages been blinded by their passions, he will learn to see through their illusion before they exist in himself.

These instructions I own, are not well adapted to him; and possibly they may also be found too late and insufficient: but you will please to recollect, that these are not the lessons which I intended to inculcate by this method of studying history. I had another object in view, which must certainly be attained, if it is not the fault of the teacher.

Let us remember, that self love no sooner displays itself, than personal interest begins to act; that our young man compares himself with every one he observes: it is therefore necessary, that we should know what rank he assumes among his fellow-creatures, after having examined them. In the common method by which children are taught to read history, they are to be transformed alternately into the various charac-

ters, as they arise: thus the pupil is now a Cicero, now a Trajan, and by and by an Alexander. Thus he is mortified upon reflexion, and regrets that he is only himself. I do not deny that this method may have its advantages; but with regard to my Emilius, if in his comparisons it should ever happen that he had rather be another than himself, were it even Socrates or Cato, all is lost. He who begins to be estranged from himself, will soon forget himself entirely.

Men are not best known by the philosophers; who view them through the prejudices of philosophy, and there is no class of people more prejudiced. A savage judges more rationally of mankind than a philosopher: the first is sensible of his own vices, is angry at ours, and says to himself, We are all knaves: the latter regards us without emotion, and cries, You are all fools. He is in the right; for we none of us pursue vice for its own sake. My Emilius is the savage, with this difference only, that having more reflection, being more accustomed to compare ideas, and to view our errors with more circumspection, he places a stronger guard over himself, and judges only from what he knows.

We are irritated by our own passions against those of others. It is self-interest which makes
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us hate the wicked : if they had done us no evil, we should feel for them more pity than hatred. The evil which the wicked do to us, makes us forget that which they do to themselves. We should more readily pardon their vices, if we knew how severely they are punished by their own hearts. We perceive the offence, but we do not see the punishment : the advantages are apparent, but their sufferings invisible. He who thinks he enjoys the fruits of vice, feels no less torment than if he had not been successful ; the object is changed, but his inquietude is the same : in vain he makes a display of his good fortune, and conceals his heart ; it is visible through his conduct, but visible to those only whose hearts are of a different mould.

We are seduced by those passions which we participate, and offended with those which oppose our interest ; and hence we blame in others that which we ourselves would imitate. This seduction and aversion are inevitable, when we are obliged to suffer from others, those evils which we in their situation should perpetrate.

What then is required towards an accurate observation of men ? An ardent desire to know them, impartiality in our judgment, and sensibility of heart sufficient to conceive all the variety of human passions, yet so calm as not to

be under their influence. If there be any period of life peculiarly favourable to this study, it is certainly the present age of Emilius: if we suppose him younger, mankind are above his comprehension; if older, he would resemble the rest. Opinion, whose universal empire he contemplates, has hitherto acquired no dominion over him. The passions, whose effects he perceives, have not yet inflamed his heart. As a man, he feels for his brethren; but as a judge of his peers, he is just, and therefore cannot possibly wish himself in the place of any other man, because the general aim of all human disquietude, being founded on prejudices to which he is a stranger, must necessarily appear chimerical. As to his part, all his desires are within his reach. He has strength, health *, moderation, few wants, and those few he has the power of satisfying. Educated in the most extensive liberty, he has no conception of any evil greater than servitude. He pities the wretched kings who are slaves to those by whom they are obeyed; he is sorry for those pretended sages, who are dupes to their vain reputation; he feels compassion for the rich fools, who are martyrs to pomp and pageantry; he deplores those seeming voluptu-

* I believe I may safely number health and a good constitution among the effects of his education, or rather among the gifts of nature preserved by his education.

aries, who languish through a tedious life, merely for the sake of being deemed men of pleasure: he will also pity his most inveterate enemy; for, says he, the unhappy man foolishly makes his own fate dependant on mine.

One step farther, and we reach the goal. Self-interest is an useful but dangerous instrument; it often cuts the hand that holds it, and seldom produces good without evil. Emilius, reflecting on his superiority among the human species, will be tempted to suppose the work of your reason to be the produce of his own, and to attribute his happiness to his merit. Mankind, says he to himself, are fools, but I am wise. Whilst he pities others he despises them; in congratulating himself he increases his self-esteem, and perceiving that he is happier than the rest of the world, he imagines himself more deserving. This error is most of all to be dreaded, because it is most difficult to remove. Should he continue in this situation, he would reap but little advantage from all our labour. Were I to chuse, I think I should prefer the illusion of prejudice to that of pride.

Truly great men are not mistaken in their superiority; they see, they feel it, and are not the less modest. The more they possess, the more sensible they are of what they still want. They

are less proud of their elevation above us, than humbled by the sensation of their own misery ; and with regard to the exclusive advantages they possess, they are too wise to be vain of what they had no merit in acquiring. A good man has some reason to be proud of his virtue ; but why should a man of natural talents be vain ? What had Racine done that he was not Pradon ! or Boileau, that he was not born Cotin ?

Here again the case is different, let us continue in the common course of things. I neither suppose my pupil a superlative genius, nor a blockhead. I take him from the class of common understandings, because I mean to try the power of education. Extraordinary cases have nothing to do with rules. If Emilius, in consequence of my care, should prefer his own being, his own perception of things to that of other men, he is in the right ; but when he therefore concludes himself to have been born a peculiar favourite of nature, he is certainly wrong. He is in an error, and must be undeceived ; or rather let us endeavour to prevent the error, lest it should not afterwards be in our power to remove it.

There is no folly of which a man, who is not a fool, may not be cured, except vanity ; as to this, if any thing will do, it must be experience

rience: at least, if taken in time this may prevent its growth. It were ridiculous to lose your labour in demonstrating to your pupil, that he is a man like others, and subject to the same frailties: he must perceive it himself, or your arguments will be to no purpose. This is another exception to my own rules: it is that of exposing my pupil to every accident which may serve to convince him that he is not wiser than the rest of mankind. Our adventure with the juggler must be repeated in a thousand different shapes. Let flatterers take every advantage of him; if he suffers himself to be led into folly and extravagance by young rakes, I let him risk the danger; if he falls into the snares of gamblers, I suffer him to become their dupe; * I let:

* Not that our pupil will be much exposed to this danger, because he will be in no want of variety of amusements, and is hardly acquainted with the use of money. The two springs by which children are generally moved are interest and vanity, and these are also used by sharpers and courtezans in the sequel. When you see their avarice excited by rewards, and hear them applauded, at ten years old, for their performance in some public exercise in the academy, you just see how they will leave their purse in a gaming house at twenty, and their health in a brothel. I would always lay a wager that the best scholar in his class, will turn out the greatest debauchee. It must be always remembered, however, that it is my constant maxim to consider things in the worst light. At first, indeed, I endeavour to prevent vice, and afterwards suppose it committed, in order to point out the remedy.

them flatter him and rob him of his money; and when, after entirely exhausting his purse, they finish by making him the subject of their mirth, I return them thanks, in his presence, for the excellent lesson which they have taught my pupil. The only decoys into which I shall prevent his falling, are those of prostitutes; in other instances, all I shall do for him will be to partake his danger, and submit to all the affronts to which he is exposed. I shall bear every thing with patience, without uttering a single word of reproach, and you may be certain, if my discretion be properly sustained, that what I have undergone upon his account will make a deeper impression on his heart than all he himself has suffered.

I cannot help taking notice of the ridiculous dignity of some tutors, who, in order to appear wonderfully wise, degrade the understanding of their pupil, affect to treat him as a child, and to distinguish themselves from him in every transaction. So far from thus depressing his juvenile spirit, you ought to omit nothing that may tend to elevate your pupil's mind. That his may become your equals, treat them as such; since you cannot lift them up to your level, descend without scruple to theirs. Remember that your honour is no longer in yourself but in your pupil; to inspire him with courage, partake his faults;

faults ; and to efface his shame, you must take it upon yourself : imitate that brave Roman who, finding it impossible to rally his flying army, put himself at their head, and retreating with the rest, cried aloud, *They do not fly, they only follow their leader.* Was he dishonoured by this conduct ? by no means : by thus sacrificing his glory, he increased its lustre. The force of duty, and the charms of virtue command our approbation, in spite of ourselves, and overturn all our irrational prejudices. If I were to receive from Emilius a box on the ear in consequence of performing my duty to him, so far from resenting the affront, I should boast of it wherever I came ; and I am of opinion there are few people in the world base enough not to esteem me the more on that very account.

Not that our pupil ought to suppose his tutor as ignorant as himself, and as easy to be imposed on. Such an opinion might do in a mere child, who, being incapable of comparing ideas, brings mankind to a level with himself and gives his confidence to those only who know how to reduce themselves to his standard. But a youth of the age of Emilius, and of his sense ; is not to be thus imposed on. His confidence in his governor is of another kind : it is founded on the authority of reason and superiority of knowledge,

on advantages which are obvious to the pupil, and of whose utility to himself he has no doubt. Long experience has convinced him that he is beloved by his tutor ; that his tutor is a prudent, sensible man, who has both the inclination and power to promote his happiness ; and therefore it is his interest to listen to his advice.

But if the tutor suffers himself to be as easily deceived as his pupil, will he not lose his credit and forfeit the right of advising ? Or would it not be equally improper for our youth to suppose that his tutor laid snares for his simplicity, and designedly suffered him to be imposed on ? What then must be done to avoid these two inconveniences ? The best method, and the most natural, is to imitate his simplicity and truth, warn him of the dangers to which he is exposed, point them out with precision and perspicuity, but without exaggeration, ill humour, or pedantry ; and especially avoid delivering your advice in the style of commands, lest that imperious tone should in time become necessary. If nevertheless he should persist, which doubtless will sometimes be the case, say not a word, leave him at full liberty, follow him, imitate him, and that with all the good humour you can possibly assume. If the consequences should grow too dangerous, you can
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stop them whenever you think proper. In the mean while, there can be no doubt but your former advice and present compliance will have their effect on the mind of your pupil. His faults are so many reins in your hands to stop his course as often as it shall be necessary. The great art therefore of the tutor is so to manage his opportunities, and apply his exhortations, that he may be able to foresee when his pupil will comply and when he will persist; thus he will be constantly surrounded by lessons of experience, without being exposed to too much danger.

Point out the evil consequence of his faults, before he commits them; but never reproach him for what is past, because that will answer no other purpose than to rouse and inflame his self-love. Nothing can be more idle than the phrase, *I told you what would happen*. The best method to make him remember what you say, is to seem to forget it yourself. When you perceive him ashamed of not having followed your advice, raise him gently from his humiliation by words of candour and encouragement. Nothing will more certainly conciliate his affection than to find that, on his account, you are unmindful of yourself; and that, instead of exulting, you console him. If on the contrary you add reproaches to his chagrin, he will
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infallibly hate you, and will determine to listen to you no longer, were it only to convince you that he differs from you in opinion with regard to the importance of your advice.

Even your consolations may be so ordered as to convey instruction, which will have the better effect, for not having the appearance of a lecture. For instance, by saying that many others have committed the same fault, you throw him off his guard, you correct whilst you seem only to pity him: for to him who thought himself above the generality of young people, to console him with their example must be a mortifying circumstance; it is to insinuate that all the excuse he can pretend to, is that they are no better than himself.

The age of faults is the age for fables. In censuring the culpable under a borrowed mask, you instruct without offending: your pupil perceives that the moral is no lie, by the truth of its application to himself. A child who has never been deceived by flattery will not comprehend the fable which I heretofore examined; but the forward youth who has been duped by a sycophant, perceives immediately that the raven was a fool. Thus from a fact he draws a maxim; and the experience, which otherwise he would soon have forgotten, is, by a fable, deeply im-
press

prest on his memory. There is no moral instruction which may not be acquired either by our own experience or by that of others. In cases where this experience may be attended with danger, it must be learnt from history. When it may be done with safety, it is best to let youth make the experiment; and then instead of the moral, we reduce to maxims the particular cases with which they are acquainted.

I do not mean that these maxims ought to be explained or even expressed. Nothing can be more absurd than the morals with which fables generally end; as if the moral was not included in the fable, so as to appear obvious to the reader: why then should we deprive him of the pleasure of finding it himself? The great art of instruction is to render it pleasing to your pupil, and, at the same time, not so palpably explicit, as to leave his mind entirely inactive. The pride of the tutor should leave something for that of the pupil; let him say to himself, I conceive, I penetrate, I act, I instruct myself. One of the reasons why the Panteloon in the Italian comedy is so extremely tiresome, is his taking so much pains to explain his low wit to the audience. I would not have a tutor to be a Pantaloon, and much less an author. We should speak and write so as to be understood, but we are not to say all; he that says all says very little
in

in effect, for he will soon be disregarded. Of what consequence are those four lines which La Fontaine adds to the Fable of the frog and the Ox? Was he afraid it would not be understood? Could it be necessary for so great a painter to write their names under his figures? So far from rendering his moral, by this means, general, he makes it particular, and by confining it to the object in question, prevents the reader from applying it to any other. Before I put the fables of this inimitable writer into the hands of my pupil, I would certainly curtail each fable of its conclusion, in which the author takes the trouble of explaining what he has before so clearly and agreeably related. If the learner does not understand the fable without explication, be assured he will never understand it at all.

These fables ought to be disposed in a manner more instructive, and better adapted to the capacity of youth. Nothing can be more ridiculous than to follow the order in which they happen to be placed, without any regard to circumstance or occasion: first the raven, then the grasshopper, then the frog, then the two mules, and so on. These two mules have made a particular impression on my mind, because I remember to have known a boy, who was intended for an employment in the revenue, read, get by heart, and repeat the fable a thousand times, without ever
conceiving

conceiving the least objection to the occupation for which he was intended. I not only do not remember ever to have known children make a solid application of the fables they had learnt, but I do not even recollect ever to have seen any body trouble their heads about the matter. Moral instruction is the pretence of this study ; but the real intention both of the parent and the child, is, by repeating the fables, to excite the admiration of the company : therefore, when he grows up, having no longer occasion to recite them, they all escape his memory, at that very time when he ought to profit by them. In short, fables are calculated for the instruction of men only ; it is therefore now the proper time for Emilius to begin.

Not chusing to be too explicit, I have pointed out, at a distance, those paths which diverge from the right road ; being known, they may easily be avoided. By pursuing that which I have traced out, I believe, your pupil will purchase the knowledge of himself, and of mankind, at the cheapest rate possible ; that he will be able to contemplate the sport of fortune, without envying her favourites ; and will be satisfied with himself, without thinking other people less wise. We have begun to make him act, in order to qualify him for a spectator : let us finish our task. From the pit we see the objects

jects as they seem ; but from the scenes we behold them as they really are. If we mean to survey the whole, we must fix ourselves in the proper point of view ; but we must come nearer the object, when we design to examine its parts. But under what pretensions can a stripling enter into the affairs of the world ? What right has he to be initiated into these dark mysteries ? The intrigues of pleasure are inconsistent with his interest at that age : he can dispose only of himself, and he might as well have nothing to dispose of. Man is the worst of all merchandize : among all our important rights of property, that of our persons is the least considerable.

When I observe that during the age of the greatest activity, young people are generally confined to studies which are merely speculative ; and that they are afterwards suddenly pushed into the world without the least experience, I find it to be a practice contrary both to reason and nature, and am no longer surpris'd that so few men are capable of conducting themselves through life. Can any thing be more unaccountable than to spend so much time in teaching us things which are quite useless, whilst the great art of acting is entirely neglected. Under a pretence of forming us for society, we are instructed as if each individual were destined to spend his whole life in chimerical speculations
alone

alone in a cell. You teach your children a certain form of words, and a few contortions of the body, and then you conclude them perfectly acquainted with the art of living. I too have taught my Emilius how to live; for I have instructed him how to live by himself, and have also taught him how to earn his bread: but this is not enough. In order to live in the world, it is necessary that we should know how to deal with mankind, and the means by which advantages are obtained; we must know how to calculate the action and reaction of particular interests in civil society, and so far to foresee events, as not to be often deceived, but always to embrace the most probable means of success. The laws do not permit children to transact their own affairs, nor dispose of their fortunes? but why this precaution? if till the age prescribed they can acquire no experience, they will be no wiser at twenty-five than they were at fifteen. Without doubt it is necessary to take care that a youth, blinded by ignorance and deceived by his passions, commits no folly, the consequence of which might be fatal; but at all ages we are capable of beneficence, and, under the guidance of a prudent man, may certainly assist the unhappy.

A child becomes attached to his mother and his nurse by their peculiar care of him. The practice of the social virtues roots the love of humanity.

humanity in the bottom of our hearts. By doing good actions we become good ourselves: I know of no method more certain. Employ your pupil in every good action within his power; teach him to consider the interest of the indigent as his own; let him not only assist them with his purse, but with his care; he must protect them, and dedicate his person and time to their service; he is their steward, he can never be more nobly employed. How many poor wretches groaning under oppression, who would never have been heard, will obtain justice when demanded by him with that intrepidity which the exercise of virtue inspires; when he forces open the gates of the rich and great; when he penetrates, if necessary, even to the throne, and pleads the cause of those to whom all admittance was rendered impossible by their misery, and who were fearful of complaining, lest they should be punished for the ills with which they were oppressed.

But are we to make a knight errant, a Don Quixote of our Emilius? shall he intrude into publick affairs, play the Sage, and the defender of the laws among the great, a solicitor to the judges, and a pleader in courts of justice? I know nothing of all this. Ridiculous appellations make no alteration in the nature of things. Emilius must do every thing which he knows to be useful and good; he will do no more,
and

and he knows that nothing can be useful and good for him, which is not suitable to his age. He knows that his first duty is towards himself, that youth ought to be diffident, circumspect, respectful to age, cautious of speaking without cause, modest in matters of indifference, but intrepid in doing well, and resolute in speaking the truth. Such were the illustrious Romans, who before they were admitted to public employments, spent their youth in opposing vice and defending innocence, without any other advantage than that of instructing themselves, in support of justice and morality.

Emilius likes no riot nor quarrelling, neither among men *, nor in the brute creation. He will

* But suppose any one should resolve to quarrel with him, how must he behave? I answer, his conduct will be such that he will never be exposed to quarrels. But, say you, who can be secure from a slap in the face, or from not having the lie given him by some brutal drunkard, or hectoring bravo, who for the pleasure of killing his man begins by affronting him? The case is different: neither the honour, nor life of a worthy member of society ought to be at the mercy of such wretches, and we can no more be secure from such an accident than from the fall of a tile. A slap in the face, or the lie, received and endured, will be attended with consequences to society, which no wisdom can prevent, and for which no tribunal can avenge the person injured. Therefore, the insufficiency of the laws in this case restores him to his liberty, and he becomes the sole magistrate, the sole judge between the offender and himself; he must interpret

will never set dogs to worry each other, nor encourage them to pursue a cat. This spirit of peace is the natural effect of his education; his self-opinion not having been fomented, he seeks no pleasure in dominion, nor in the misfortunes of others. He suffers when he sees others suffer; it is a natural sensation. The hearts of youth are hardened by vanity; when they receive pleasure from the torment of a sensible being, it is because they believe themselves exempted from such pains, by their wisdom or superiority. Those who are early taught to think otherwise, are in no danger of falling into this vice. Emilius loves peace. The appearance of happiness gives him pleasure; and that pleasure is an additional motive for him to endeavour to

interpret and execute the law of nature; he owes himself justice, he can receive it from no other hand, and there can be no government on earth so senseless as to punish him for having taken it. I do not say he ought to fight; that were madness; I say, he owes himself justice; and he is the only dispenser of it. Without so many edicts against duelling, were I a sovereign prince, I would be answerable to put an entire stop to affronts of this kind, and that by a very simple method with which the courts of justice should have no concern. Be that as it may, Emilius, if the case should happen, knows the justice he owes himself, and the example he ought to set to persons of honour. It is not in the power of the bravest man to prevent his being insulted; but it is certainly in his power to prevent the person insulting him from long making a boast of it.

promote it. I never supposed that he would behold the unhappy with that fruitless, cruel, compassion, which contents itself with bewailing the evils which it might remove. His active beneficence produces a knowledge which, with a more obdurate heart, he would have acquired much later, or perhaps not at all. If discord reigns among his companions, he endeavours to reconcile them ; if he sees his fellow-creatures in affliction, he enquires into the cause ; if the wretched groan under the oppression of the great and powerful, he will not rest till he has detected the iniquity of the oppressor ; in short, the means of alleviating distress he always considers as a matter of importance. How then shall we proceed, in order to make a proper use, according to his age, of these favourable dispositions ? We must regulate his attention and knowledge, and endeavour to augment them by a proper application of his zeal.

I cannot repeat it too often : let your lessons to youth consist in action rather than words ; they must learn nothing from books which may be taught by experience. Can any thing be more absurd than to make them harangue without a motive ; to suppose it possible to make them feel all the energy of the language of the passions, and the power of persuasion, without having any interest in persuading ? All the precepts

cepts in the art of rhetoric seem a mere jumble of words to those who do not perceive the advantage of using them. What is it to a school-boy how Hannibal prevailed on his troops to pass the Alps? If, instead of these magnificent harangues, you were to teach him how to prevail on the master to give him a holiday, be assured he would be more attentive to your instructions.

Were I to teach rhetoric to a youth whose passions were perfectly ripened, I would constantly throw such objects in his way as would excite them, and I would then consider with him what language is most likely to persuade mankind to favour his desires. But my Emilius happens not to be in a situation so favourable to the art of oratory. Confined almost to mere physical necessities, he has less need of mankind than others have of him; and having nothing to ask for himself, he is not interested enough in any cause, to be violently affected. Hence it follows that his language will be simple; he generally speaks to the point, and only with a design to be understood; he is not sententious, because he has not learnt to generalize his ideas; he uses few metaphors, because his passions are seldom enflamed.

Not that Emilius is quite flegmatic and cold; this, neither his age, his manners, nor his taste

will permit. In the fire of youth the animal spirits retained and mingled with his blood, convey to his young heart a fervor which sparkles in his eyes, enlivens his conversation, and influences all his actions. He acquires an emphasis in speaking, and sometimes vehemence. The noble sentiments with which he is inspired, give him force and elevation ; influenced by his great humanity, when he speaks, he expresses the emotions of his soul ; there is a generous unreservedness in his manner, which is more persuasive than the artificial eloquence of others ; or rather, he alone is truly eloquent, for he needs only display his own feelings, to communicate them to his hearers.

The more I reflect, the more I am convinced, that by thus employing the principle of benevolence, and by drawing, from our good or bad success, reflections on their causes, there is little useful knowledge which may not be cultivated in the mind of a youth ; and that to the real learning of the schools may be added that which is much more important, namely, its application to the uses of life. Thus interested in the welfare of his fellow-creatures, he will soon learn to estimate their actions, their taste, their pleasures, and in general to fix a truer value on what will promote or destroy human felicity,

than those who know no interest separate from their own, and who act only for themselves. Such men are too strongly biassed to judge rationally. Applying every thing to themselves, and forming their ideas of good and evil by their own advantages, they fill their minds with a thousand ridiculous prejudices, and every attempt that clashes with their interest seems to threaten destruction to the universe.

If we extend this self-love to other beings, it becomes a virtue, and there exists not a human heart in which it may not be found. The less immediately the object of our care is attached to ourselves, the less the illusion of self-interest is to be apprehended; the more we generalise that interest, the more equitable it becomes, and the love of mankind will be no other than the love of justice. If therefore we intend that Emilius shall be virtuous, let us endeavour in all his transactions to detach him from himself. The more he devotes his time and attention to the happiness of others, the more rational will be his conduct, and the less he will be deceived in his judgment of good and evil; but he must indulge no capricious partiality. Why should he injure one to serve another? It is of little consequence to him, who has the greatest share of fortune, provided it concurs in augmenting the general felicity: that is the first concern of a wise man,

man, next to his private interest ; for each is a part of his species, and not of another individual.

To prevent compassion from degenerating into weakness, it must extend to all mankind : we shall then carry it no farther than is consistent with justice ; because, of all virtues, justice contributes most to man's happiness. From reason, and from a regard to ourselves, our love to our species should over-balance that to our neighbour : there can be no greater cruelty to mankind than to indulge compassion for the wicked.

Upon the whole, let it be observed that all the means by which I detach my pupil from himself, have ultimately a direct tendency towards him ; and will not only afford him pleasure upon reflection, but whilst he is employed in acts of benevolence to others, he himself insensibly imbibes instruction.

Having prescribed the means, let us now observe the effect. What vast designs I see gradually forming in his mind ? How do his sublime sentiments prevent the seeds of every groveling passion from taking root in his heart ! How clear his judgment ! How justly he is enabled to reason, from his regulated desires, and from that experience which confines the wishes of a great soul within the narrow limits of possibility, and

induces superior minds (unable to elevate the notions of the multitude) to let themselves down to the common level ! The true principles of rectitude, the just model of the Beautiful, the moral relations of beings, and all the ideas of order are impressed on his understanding ; he sees how every thing ought to be, and the reason why it is otherwise ; he knows what will be productive of good, and what will have a contrary effect ; without having experienced the human passions, he is sensible of their consequence, and their illusion.

Hurried on by the natural force of things, I am carried perhaps a little precipitately forward ; without any intention, however, of imposing on the judgment of my readers. It is long since they have imagined me to be wandering in the land of chimeras ; and I as constantly see them misled in that of prejudices. In departing so far from vulgar opinions, they are, nevertheless, incessantly present to my mind. I examine and meditate on them, neither with a view to adopt or reject them ; but to weigh them in the balance of right reason. The moment I am obliged to depart from them, I take it, on known experience, for granted, that no body will follow me : I know that people in general, persisting in the reality and propriety only of what they see

see before their eyes, will take my pupil for an imaginary and fantastic being ; because he differs from all those with whom they compare him ; without thinking that he ought to be so different, on account of his different mode of education. Thus having taught him contrary maxims and affected him with different sentiments, it would be more surprising that he should resemble, than that he should differ from ordinary pupils. Mine is not an artificial, but a natural man. There certainly should appear a difference between him and us.

At the commencement of this work, I made no supposition of any thing which the whole world might not observe as well as myself. The birth of man is a term from which we all set out alike : but the farther I advance, in the cultivation of our nature, and you in the depravation of it, the farther we necessarily depart from each other. My pupil at six years of age, differed but little from yours ; as you had not then had time enough to spoil him ; but the age at which the former is now arrived ought to represent him in a very different form, if I have not thrown my time and pains away. The quantity of information or number of acquirements may be the same, both on the one part and on the other ; but the nature of that information

or the knowledge acquired is very different. You are astonished to find in your pupils those sublime sentiments of which mine has not the least notion or idea; but you are to consider that the former were philosophers and theologists, before Emilius knew what philosophy was, or even heard talk of a Deity.

If any person should object, therefore, and tell me that nothing which I have supposed, has any real existence, that young people are not formed, that they have such or such passions; that they do so or so; what is all this? They might as well deny that an apple tree is ever a large standard tree, because we see nothing but dwarfs in our gardens.

I must take the liberty to desire those persons, who are so ready to censure, to consider that I know every thing they can say on this head as well as they; that I have reflected on this subject, in all probability much longer than they; and that, having no interest to impose on them, I have a right to expect they will not precipitately condemn me, without taking proper time to examine wherein I may be mistaken. Let them investigate first the constitution of man; let them trace the developements of the human heart in such or such circumstances, in order
that

that they may know, how much one individual may differ from another on account of education : let them then compare my system with the effects I attribute to it, and, if they demonstrate that I have reasoned falsely, I have nothing further to say.

I am the more positive, and think myself the more excuseable for being so, on this head, as I have indulged myself as little as possible in systematic reasoning; but have rested my whole cause on observation. I lay no stress on what I have imagined, but on what I have seen. It is true that I have not confined my observations within the walls of a city, nor to any one order of men; but, after having taken a comparative view of as many ranks and degrees of people as I have met with, during a whole life spent in observing them, I have thrown aside, as artificial, all the peculiarities of particular nations, ranks and conditions; and have regarded those things only, as incontestibly belonging to man, which are common to men of all countries, ages, and circumstances of life.

Now, if adopting this method, you trace, from his infancy, the steps of a young man, who should receive no particular form, but be influenced as little as possible by the authority

and opinion of others, which, do you think, he would most resemble? my pupil or yours? This seems to me the precise question to be resolved by those, who would determine whether or not I am mistaken.

Men do not easily begin to think, but when they begin, they never cease to think afterwards. The understanding, once accustomed to reflection, can never remain inactive. It may hence be suspected that I have, in this respect, done either too much or too little; that the human mind is not naturally so ready to display its faculties as I have supposed, and that after having given it a premature facility of exerting them, I restrain them too long within so narrow a circle of ideas.

But consider, in the first place, that there is a wide difference between educating a man for society, according to the principles of nature, and the rearing a savage, to be sent afterwards to inhabit the woods. It is sufficient that my pupil, secluded within the vortex of society, is prevented from being infected by the contagion of the passions and prejudices of mankind; that he see, and feel himself governed by no other authority than that of his own reason. In this situation it is evident that he will be struck by a
multitude,

multitude of objects, that he will be affected by a variety of sentiments; all which, with the various means suggested to provide for his real wants, will furnish him with a multiplicity of ideas which he would otherwise never have had, or at least would have acquired much later. The natural progress of the understanding is indeed accelerated but not perverted. The same man who would have remained stupid if strolling about a forest, would have become a reasonable creature if living in a city, even though only a simple uninstructed spectator.

Nothing is more proper to render a man sensible and prudent than the follies he sees practised, without partaking of them; nay, even the participation of them is still farther improving, provided he is not made a dupe to them, and does not adopt the errors of those who are principally concerned in committing them.

It should be considered, also, that, as we are confined by our faculties to sensible objects, we are not easily influenced to conceive abstract notions of philosophy, and ideas purely intellectual.

To acquire these, it is necessary, either to disengage ourselves from the body to which we are so firmly attached; to make a slow and gradual progress from object to object, or in short to

take at once a gigantic step from the material to the intellectual world, of which a child is incapable. To get over the interval between them requires indeed, for men, a ladder of many rounds, expressly made for that purpose. The first abstract idea we conceive, is the first of these rounds; but I cannot easily apprehend how they are combined and constructed.

The incomprehensible Being, in whom every thing is comprehended, who gives motion to the material, and life to the animal, system, is neither visible to the sight nor palpable to the touch: he escapes the investigation of all our senses. The work is displayed at large, but the artist is concealed. It is not a little point attained, even to know that he exists; and when we have got so far, and would enquire farther what he is and where! our understanding soon bewilders itself, and we no longer know what to think of him.

Locke would have us begin our studies with the investigation of spirits, and to pass from thence to that of bodies. This method is that of superstition, prejudice and error; it is not that of reason, nor even of nature rightly disposed: this would be to shut our eyes in order to learn to see. It is requisite to study the nature of
bodies

bodies a long time to acquire a true notion of spirits, or even to suspect that they exist. By proceeding in a contrary order we only proceed to establish materialism.

As our senses are the primary instruments of our knowledge, perceptible and corporeal objects are the only ones of which we have the immediate idea. The word spirit has no meaning with those who have never philosophised. With children and with ordinary people, a spirit is nothing more than a body. Do not they conceive that spirits talk, fight and make a noise? it must be acknowledged therefore that such spirits, having arms and tongues, must greatly resemble human bodies. This is the reason why all the people in the world, not excepting the Jews themselves, have worshipped corporeal deities: Even we, christians, with our theological terms of Spirit, the Trinity, and the persons of the Godhead, are, for the most part, real anthropomorphites. I own indeed we are taught to say, that God is every where present: but we believe also that air is diffused throughout the universe, at least throughout our atmosphere; and the word Spirit, in its original signification, stands for *breath* or *wind*. If once people are brought to use words of which they do not understand the meaning, it is easy, after that, to make them say what we please.

The sense of our action on other bodies, should very naturally, at first, make us believe that, when they acted on us, it must be in a similar manner. Thus man began to suppose all those beings animated, of whose action he became susceptible. Perceiving also that most of those beings had more strength than he had, he supposed that strength to be unlimited, and thus made as many deities as he became acquainted with bodies. During the first ages of the world, man, being apprehensive of danger from every object, beheld nothing dead or inanimate in nature. He was not longer in acquiring the abstract idea of matter than that of spirit. Thus did mankind stock the universe with material divinities. The stars, winds, mountains, rivers, trees, even houses, every thing was possessed of a soul, and had its deity. The monkeys of Laban, the manitou of the savages, the fetiches of the Negroes, the works of art as well as nature, have been formerly esteemed as Gods by mankind. Polytheism was the first religion in the world, and the first worship was idolatry. Men could not arrive at the acknowledgment of one God, till, generalising their ideas by degrees, they were enabled to recur to a first cause, to unite the whole system of beings in one idea, and to give a meaning to the word *substance*, which is in fact the greatest of abstractions. Every child who believes in God is, therefore, necessarily

necessarily an idolater, an at least an anthropomorphite; and when even the imagination hath attained a view of the Deity, it is very seldom that the understanding can form any conception of him. This is the very error into which the order prescribed by Mr. Locke will necessarily lead us.

Having fallen, I hardly know how, on the abstract idea of substance, it is plain that in order to admit of the existence only of one simple substance, we must suppose it possessed of qualities that are incompatible and reciprocally exclusive of each other, such as those of thought and extension, one of which is essentially divisible, and the other incapable of divisibility. Thought, or, if you will, sentiment, is, beside, supposed to be a primitive quality and inseparable from the substance to which it belongs; that it bears the same relation to it as even its extension. Hence it is to be concluded that those beings which lose either of these qualities, lose the substance also to which it belongs; that, of consequence, death is only a separation of substances, and that Beings, in which these two qualities are united, are composed of the two substances to which these two qualities appertain.

Now, reflect on the vast difference that still remains between the notion of these two substances

stances and that of the divine nature ; between the incomprehensible idea of the action of the soul on the body, and the idea of the action of God on all created beings. The ideas of a creating and annihilating power, omnipresence, eternity, omnipotence, are those of the divine attributes, which so small a part of mankind are capable to form, confused and indistinct as they are, and which nevertheless do not appear obscure at all to the common people, because they form nothing of them. How is it possible to present these ideas in all their force, that is to say, in their full obscurity, to those youthful understandings which are as yet totally occupied with the primary operations of the senses, and are hardly able to conceive any thing but what they feel. It is in vain the vast abyss of infinity is thrown open before us ; a child cannot be struck and confounded at the unfathomable void, its feeble optics cannot pierce its immense profundity. Every thing appears infinite to children, they know not how to prescribe bounds to any thing ; not because they extend the limits of nature beyond measure, but because the rule of their understanding is so short. I have even observed that they place infinity more often within, than without, the limits which are even known to them. They estimate a space to be immense, rather by their feet than their eyes ;

infinity does not extend farther than they can see, but only farther than they can go. If we speak to them of the power of the deity, they think him almost as strong as their father. Their knowledge, in all cases, being to them the measure of possibilities, they judge every thing that is told them to be less, and inferior to what they know. Such are the conclusions natural to ignorance and weakness of understanding. Ajax was afraid to encounter Achilles, and yet challenged Jupiter: this was because he knew the strength and prowess of Achilles, and was ignorant of the omnipotence of Jove. Should we endeavour to give a Swiss peasant, who imagines himself the wealthiest of mankind, the idea of a king, he will ask us, with an air of purse proud self-sufficiency, if a king has an hundred cows grazing on the mountains?

I foresee how much my readers will be surprised to find I have attended my pupil throughout the whole first age of life, without once speaking to him of religion. He hardly knows, at fifteen years of age, whether or not he hath a soul; and perhaps it will not be time to inform him of it when he is eighteen; for if he learns it too soon, he runs a risk of never knowing it at all.

If I were to design a picture of the most deplorable stupidity, I would draw a pedant teaching

ing children their catechism; and were I resolved to crack the brain of a child, I would oblige him to explain what he said when he repeated his catechism. It may be objected, that the greater part of the dogmas of christianity being mysterious, to expect the human mind should be capable of conceiving them, is not so much to expect children should be men, but that man should be something more. To this I answer, in the first place, that there are mysteries, which it is not only impossible for men to comprehend but also to believe; and I do not see what we get by teaching them to children, unless it be to learn them betimes to tell lies. I will say farther, that before we admit of mysteries, it is necessary for us to comprehend, at least, that they are incomprehensible; and children are not even capable of this. At an age when every thing is mysterious, there are no such things properly speaking as mysteries.

Believe in God and thou shalt be saved. This dogma, misunderstood, is the principle of sanguinary persecution, and the cause of all those futile instructions which have given a mortal blow to human reason, by accustoming it to be satisfied with words. Doubtless, not a moment is to be lost when we are running the race of eternal salvation: but, if to obtain this important prize, it be sufficient to learn to repeat a set form of words,

words, I do not see what should hinder us from peopling heaven with magpies and perroquets as well as with children.

To impose an obligation of believing, supposes the possibility of it. The philosopher who does not believe, is certainly in the wrong; because he misuses the understanding he has cultivated, and is capacitated to comprehend the sublime truths he rejects. But though a child should profess the christian religion, what can he believe? He can believe only what he conceives, and he conceives so little of what is said to him, that if you tell him directly the contrary, he adopts the latter dogma as readily as he did the former. The faith of children, and indeed of many grown persons, is merely an affair of geography. Are they to be rewarded in heaven, because they were born at Rome and not at Mecca? One man is told that Mahomet was a prophet sent by God, and he accordingly says that Mahomet was a prophet sent by God: the other is told that Mahomet was an impostor, and he in like manner also says Mahomet was an impostor. Had these two persons only changed places, each would also have changed his tone, and affirmed what he now denies. Can we infer from two dispositions so much alike, that one will go to heaven and the other to hell? When a child
says

says he believes in God, it is not in God he believes, but in Peter or James, who tell him there is something which is called God; thus he believes in the manner of Euripides, when Jupiter was thus addressed in one of his tragedies; *

*O Jupiter! Tho' nothing I know of thee but
thy name,—*

We protestants hold that no child, who dies before he arrives at the age of reason, is deprived of salvation: the Roman Catholics believe the same of every child that is baptized, though it should never once have heard the name of God. There are some cases therefore in which men may be saved without believing in God, as in infancy or imbecillity of mind, as in idiots and madmen, where the understanding is incapable of the operations requisite to infer an acknowledgment of the Deity. All the difference that I see here between me and my readers is, that you think children of seven years of age capacitated to believe in God, and I do not think them capable of it even at fifteen. Whether I am right or wrong in this particular, it is not in itself an article of faith, but only a simple observation in natural history.

* The tragedy of Menalippus, which at first began with this line; but the clamours of the Athenians obliged Euripides afterwards to alter it. *Plutarch.*

On

On the same principles, it is evident that if a man should arrive at old age without believing in God, he would not be deprived of his presence in the other world, provided his infidelity was not wilful; and this I say may sometimes happen. You will admit that, with respect to madmen, a malady deprives them of their intellectual faculties, but not of their condition as men, nor of course of their claim to the beneficence of their Creator. Why, then, will you not admit the same claim, in those who, sequestered in their infancy from all society, have lived the real life of a savage, deprived of that information which is to be acquired only by conversation with mankind*? For it is a demonstrable impossibility that such a savage should ever raise his ideas to the knowledge of the true God. Reason tells us that man is punishable only for his wilful errors, and that invincible ignorance can never be imputed to him as a crime. Hence it should follow that in the eye of eternal justice every man who would have believed had he had the opportunities of information, will appear as a believer; and that none will be punished for infidelity but those whose hearts refuse to admit the truth,

* See the first part of my discourse on the Inequality of mankind; wherein I treat of the natural state of the human mind and the slowness of its progress.

Let us beware of divulging the truth to those who are incapable of understanding it: for this is the way to substitute error in the room of it. It were better to have no idea of God at all, than to entertain those which are mean, fantastical, injurious and unworthy a divine object: it is a less crime to be ignorant of, than insult, him. I had much rather, says the amiable Plutarch, that people should believe there is no such person as Plutarch in the world, than that they should say he is unjust, envious, jealous, and so tyrannical as to require of others what he has not left them power to perform.

The great evil of those preposterous images of the Deity, which we may trace in the minds of children, is, that they remain indelible during their whole life; and that when they are men they have no better conceptions of God than they had when they were children. I once knew a very worthy and pious woman in Switzerland so well satisfied of the truth of this maxim, that she would give her son no early instructions about religion; lest he should content himself with such imperfect ideas as he was then only able to conceive, and neglect the acquisition of more perfect ones when he grew up. This child never heard the name of God pronounced but with awe and reverence; and whenever he began to speak of him was immediately silenced,

as if the subject was too great and sublime for his comprehension. This reserve excited his curiosity, and his self-love aspired after the time when it should be proper for him to be made acquainted with the mystery that was so carefully concealed from him. The less he was spoken to of God, the less he was suffered to speak of him, the more his thoughts were employed on this unknown object. He saw God in every thing around him; and what I should fear most from this air of mystery carried to extremes, would be, that in overheating the imagination of a young man, it would turn his head, and that in the end it would make him a fanatic instead of a believer.

We need be under no such apprehensions, however, with respect to Emilius, who, constantly refusing to pay any attention to objects above his capacity, hears with the most perfect indifference those things he doth not understand. There are so many of these, of which he is accustomed to say, "this matter is not my concern," that he will not be embarrassed about any one that may be proposed to him: and even when he begins to interest himself in these important questions, it is not because he may have happened to hear them proposed, but when the progress of his understanding leads him to such disquisitions.

We

We have seen by what means a cultivated understanding makes its approaches to the knowledge of these mysteries, and I readily agree that it does not naturally arrive at such knowledge, even in the midst of society, before we reach a very advanced age. But, as there are numerous and inevitable causes in society, from which the progress of the passions is accelerated; if the progress of the understanding, which serves to regulate those passions, be not accelerated in the same proportion, then it is that we depart from the order of nature, and that the equilibrium between our reason and our passions is destroyed. If we are not sufficiently our own masters to moderate a too rapid developement of certain faculties, it is necessary to hurry on with the same rapidity those which ought to correspond with them, so that the order in which they should all be naturally displayed, be not perverted; that those which ought to go together, be not separated; and that man, as the same conscious individual during every moment of his life, should not be advanced to a certain degree by one of his faculties, and to a different degree by another.

What a difficulty do I see here rising up against me! a difficulty by so much the greater as it depends less on the things themselves, than on the pusillanimity of those who dare not venture

ture to resolve it. Let us begin at least by daring to propose it. A child should be educated in the religion of his father ; it is always easy to convince him that such a faith, be it what it will, is the only true one ; and that all others are absurd and extravagant. The force of our arguments on this head, depends absolutely on this point, to wit, on the country in which they are proposed. Let a Turk, who finds Christianity so ridiculous at Constantinople, go and see how ridiculous Mahometanism is at Paris. Custom and prejudice triumph particularly in matters of religion. But how shall we, who, on all occasions, pretend to shake off its yoke ; we, who pay no regard to the authority of opinion ; who would teach our pupil nothing but what he might have learnt himself, in any country ; in what religion shall we educate Emilius ? To what sect shall we unite the man of nature ? The answer appears to me very simple ; we shall unite him neither to one nor another ; but place him in a proper situation, and qualify him to make choice of that which the best use of his reason may induce him to adopt.

*In edo per ignes
Suppositos cineri doloso.*

No matter ; my zeal and sincerity have hitherto stood me in the stead of prudence. I hope
these,

these, my securities, will not forsake me in necessity. Fear not, readers, that I shall take any precautions unworthy a friend to truth: I shall never lose sight of my motto; but certainly I may be permitted to distrust my own judgment. Instead of telling you what I think myself, I will give you the sentiments of a man of greater weight than I am. I answer for the veracity of the facts which are here related: they really happened to the author of the paper I am going to transcribe. It is your business to see if any useful reflections may be drawn from it relative to the subject of which it treats. I neither propose the sentiments of myself or another as a rule for you, but only submit them to your examination.



END of the SECOND VOLUME.

